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1 of 3 charges in sexual assault case dismissed. PAGE 2

IPI's US eligible employees under 30 percent. PAGE 3

CUC, Pacific mourn passing of Malae

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Malae

It is no hyperbole to say that it wasn't just American Samoa but possibly the entire Pacific region that mourned the passing of Utu Abe Malae yesterday.

That was true at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in the CNMI, where Malae was a former executive director.

According to Gary Camacho, the current executive director, the corporation and presumably the Pacific region are in mourning, that yesterday was a sad day not just for CUC but

See CUC on Page 4

ROUTINE EXERCISE
An F/A-18 Hornet prepares to land on the flight deck of the USS *Ronald Reagan* as part of their routine exercises in the region.
JON PEREZ

Goodbye, Mariana Resort

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

An eerie silence now greets you at Mariana Resort & Spa.

The usual hustle and bustle of golf carts going around the more than 50,000-square-meter property are gone.

Gone too are the warm and friendly greetings of hotel staff to arriving tourists as they escort them to their rooms.

And the usual noise of children laughing while splashing each other at the pool can no longer be heard.

The Mariana Resort & Spa—including the Mandi Asian Spa, go-cart racing facility, and the Mariana

See GOODBYE on Page 4

JON PEREZ
Jose Dominador Pineda, left, and Amador Asedillo try to finish some of the work that is needed by the other businesses operated by the Kitami family at their shop at the back of the Mariana Resort & Spa.

Taking shelter after Mangkhut

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune *sent Kimberly Bautista to Rota on a task to scope the damage left by Typhoon Mangkhut, talk with disaster relief representatives, and write about it.*

SONGSONG, Rota—I've never slept in a typhoon shelter before. My recent experience on Rota was eye-opening. I was safe, yes, but it was also hot, dark, and I was hungry. Thank heavens for the kindness of strangers, who found me a spot where I could lie down and pass the night.

The best news I got was when my editor told me I would be returning to Saipan much earlier that I had expected. At least I had that luxury of catching a flight and getting back to

See SHELTER on Page 4

FUTURE OF CNMI WORKFORCE

Kilili: Invest in US workers

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Editor's Note: The following is part of a series that examines what is being done today to prepare for the end of the foreign worker program in 2029.

Second part of a series

Sablan

Companies can't be passive about employee development and it is time to invest in the CNMI workforce, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP)

"Employers must do whatever they can to take in U.S. workers and invest in them because they are the people that will

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INSIDE

LOCAL
IT&E partners with several organizations in September.
PAGE 13

ASIA
Aid is starting to trickle in as the Indonesia death toll passes 1,400.
PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE
It has been a year since sexual assault allegations were raised against Harvey Weinstein.
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

1 of 3 charges in sexual assault case dismissed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court dismissed for two of three charges filed against a 43-year-old man who allegedly sexually assaulting a minor.

Last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho granted the Office of the Public Defender's request to drop one of three charges against Joseph Seman Epina.

In March 26, 2016, the Commonwealth charged Epina with sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree (count one), assault and battery (count two), and disturbing the peace (count three). On Aug. 1, 2018, Epina through assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, filed for a motion to have count two dismissed.

Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio did not oppose the motion, despite disagreeing with the legal basis behind it.

Epina is still charged with sexual assault of a minor in the first degree and disturbing the peace.

According to Zona's argument, Epina should not be charged with assault and battery because the Office of the Attorney General lacked facts to back its allegation that Epina forcibly removed the victim's pants and caused her bodily harm.

Zona said the OAG's facts allege that Epina forcibly removed the victim's shorts but there was no allegation that constituted that doing so caused the victim bodily harm of any kind and there was also no allegation that constituted that removing the victim's shorts resulted in sexual contact.

Epina is facing charges of allegedly raping a then-12-year-old girl. Police claimed that Epina sexually assaulted the girl who was sleeping at a relative's house last March.

Police investigation started after receiving a complaint from Division of Youth Services personnel about a student who had been sexually assaulted.

The girl told police that it was not the first time that Epina sexually assaulted her.

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four Saipan beaches and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Central Repair Shop, DPW channel bridge, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and the San Antonio beach.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Take Care, Chong's Corp, The Shack step up as leading Club 200 donors

Take Care, Chong's Corp., and The Shack are once again supporting the American Red Cross' fundraising efforts here in the CNMI.

"Year in and year out, these companies answer the call when the Red Cross needs help," said Bob Coldeen, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter board member. "We can't do what we do without their ongoing generosity and belief in our life changing work."

Take Care donated $2,500 in cash, Chong's Corp. donated two 12,000 BTU split-type air conditioners, and The Shack donated 10 lunch cards for a free lunch once a month for a year and 30 chili "the works" cards, good for a free chili every month for a year.

For more information about how to donate, volunteer or purchase tickets, call the Red Cross office at 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Take Care donates $2,500 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Chong's Corp. donates two 12,000 BTU split-type air conditioners to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Shack donated 10 lunch cards for a free lunch once a month for a year and 30 chili "the works" cards, good for a free chili every month for a year to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

IF H-2B VISAS ARE CONSIDERED

IPI's US eligible employees under 30 percent

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The sole casino operator on Saipan is possibly non-compliant with a local law that requires at least 30 percent of workers to be local residents after acting Department of Labor secretary Gil San Nicolas confirmed that H-2B visa holders are also included in the maximum 70 percent foreign national worker count.

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the lone casino operator on Saipan, told the Commonwealth Casino Commission during the Sept. 24, 2018, monthly commission meeting that they are unsure if the H-2B visas are included in the count of foreign national workers.

An IPI human resource executive's report on their workers noted that if H-2B visas were to be counted as foreign national workers, then that would mean IPI's workforce is currently below the 30 percent mandate for local employees at only 27 percent.

If H-2B visas are not counted in the foreign national worker count, then IPI would have a high percentage of local hires at 48 percent.

» DOL: H-2B visas should be considered

As of August 2018, IPI reportedly has 508 U.S. employees, 118 U.S. permanent resident employees, 28 Freely Associated States employees, 631 CW employees, 18 H-1B visa holders, four E3 holders, 59 Employment Authorization Document holders, and 1,049 H-2B visa holders.

In an interview with San Nicolas last Tuesday, he told *Saipan Tribune* that H-2B visa holders are included in the maximum 70-percent threshold of foreign national workers for a business, as mandated in CNMI local law.

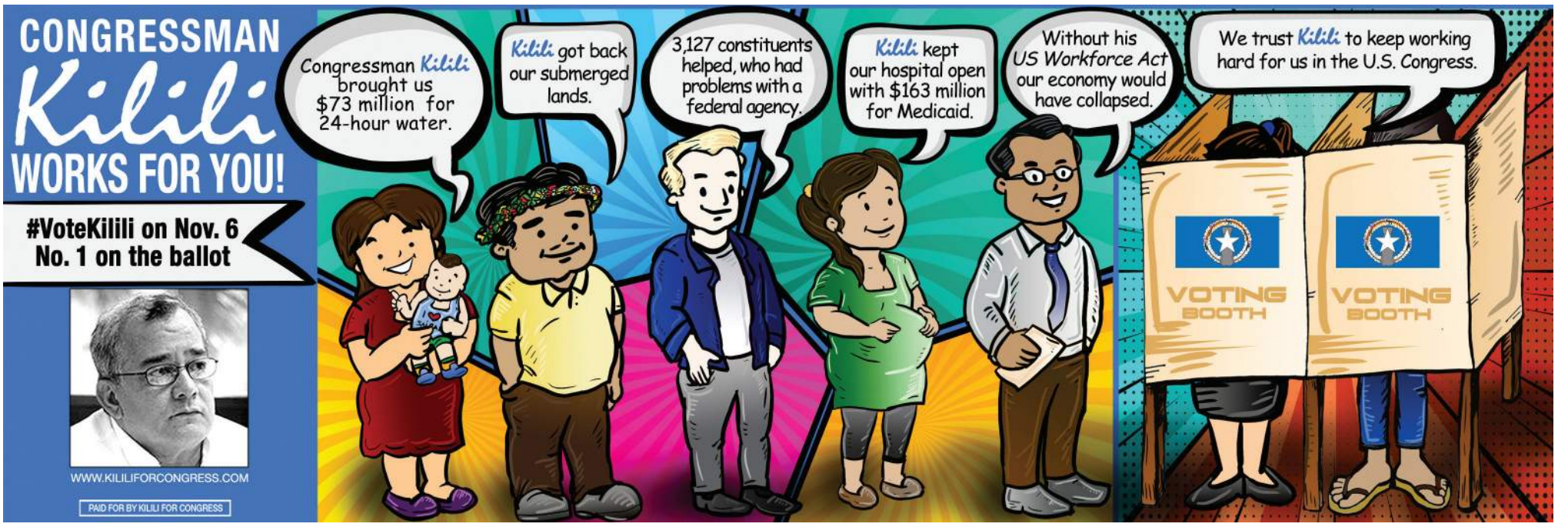
He noted that CNMI regulations refer to "foreign national workers" and that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services consider H-2B visa holders as non-immigrant aliens, therefore H-2B visas are included in the foreign national worker count of 70 percent.

"USCIS issues the CW-1 and H-2B visa permits. If they are classified as foreign national worker, then our regulations require that workforce participation shall include foreign national workers and other non-immigrant aliens," San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune*.

In a statement yesterday, IPI reiterated a well-above-minimum percentage of local workers at 48 percent. The company attributed the increase in H-2B visa workers to the ongoing construction of its casino in Garapan.

"Due to the ongoing Garapan construction project, the number of construction workers under temporary H2B category at IPI has increased. However, as reported at the most recent CCC meeting, IPI's U.S. workers of permanent operations presents 48 percent and foreign workers presents 52 percent, which excludes its temporary H2B construction workers for the Garapan construction project," the statement added.

San Nicolas noted that he was not approached by IPI for consultation on the subject. as of Tuesday afternoon.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SHELTER

From Page 1

Saipan for a warm shower and a full meal. Not so much for many others, who had to spend a few more nights at the shelter, days after Typhoon Mangkhut swept through Rota.

Mildred Sikebert, one of two shelter volunteers at the Office on Aging, said there were over six displaced families at the shelter, which thankfully had electricity from a generator set.

Although the company had booked a room for me at the Valentino Hotel, I chose to stay at the shelter and the experience was a good occasion for several personal realizations, including taking a lot of things for granted, like my bed and my sheets. Being forced to sleep on the floor and making do with what you have are valuable lessons.

For 7-year-old Monica Salazar, who was at the shelter with her mom, Girlie, it was an adventure. According to Girlie, she and her daughter were staying at the shelter because Typhoon Mangkhut left their home without a roof, yet the bubbly Monica still managed to play with the friends she had made at the shelter, as kids are wont to do.

Her mom, Girlie, also took pains to help me out, finding a spot where I could lie down. I will never forget how kind she was and how much she wanted to help me out despite needing help herself.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Still recovering from Typhoon Mangkhut myself, I was sent to Rota a day after the typhoon swept through Rota. I was early for a Star Marianas' first flight out to Rota. Mind you, I had not taken a shower because water was down on Saipan too.

■■■

At the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, I was put on standby. Three other passengers and I waited for nearly three hours. I was still sleepy, smelly, and a bit hungry. We were finally able to fly out to Rota at around 2:40pm—about three hours later.

■■■

The gloom over Rota was palpable, but I was amazed that the residents remained cheerful and did not miss any chance to say, "Welcome to the island of Luta, we hope you enjoy your stay."

■■■

Scoping the island at around 4pm, I met a man named Benny Lami-ing, who was standing in front of his home that was almost completely wiped out by Mangkhut. Despite losing more than half of his home, Lami-ing still managed to be optimistic.

■■■

The Rota Mayor's Office was bustling with activity, as it was the designated staging area for all the organizations and agencies that were on Rota to aid in relief.

■■■

The Valentino Hotel, where the company intended for me to stay for the duration of my visit to Rota, was beautiful but you could tell it took a beating from Typhoon Mangkhut. It had no electricity or water.

■■■

At past 7pm, I sped off in my rental car into the pitch-black streets and made my way to Sinapalo 1 where the shelter was. Although I got lost a handful of times, I found the Office on Aging shelter and the relief I felt after seeing the light was unexplainable.

As I spent time with the Salazars, I came to the realization that the passing of Typhoon Mangkhut was merely the beginning of the battle to recovery.

Monica herself vividly remembers the strong wind and the rain as Typhoon Mangkhut pummeled Rota last Sept. 10 and 11.

"I felt scared…At first I was watching movies in my laptop and when it was almost nighttime, the power just went out and my mommy and I just stayed in the room…and then our house broke down…the roof fell down because of the wind," she said.

Another shelteree, Nida Gammad, whose home was completely wiped out by Mangkhut, is still uncertain about what will happen to her and her grandchildren when they are asked to leave the shelter.

"Our home is really damaged so I don't know when we will be able to go home," she added.

There were many others who suffered the same fate as Gammad and Salazar but they remained optimistic. In fact, upon waking up early the next day, despite the long restless night, I couldn't help but admire the generosity that people showed toward their fellow shelterees. Those who were up early offered coffee and made sure not to bother those who were still asleep.

After a couple of hours chatting with the new friends I've made and watching the children play, I made my way back to the Valentino Hotel, where I was able to eat finally.

And uppermost on my mind? A nice long shower and a hot meal.

I must point out that this is not meant to mock or belittle the experience of those forced to take shelter after a storm. Rather, I wanted to put a face and a name to stories about typhoon shelterees and this was my chance to do that. In the midst of suffering and hardship, people's kindness, compassion, and resilience still bled through, and I am privileged to have witnessed that.

CUC

From Page 1

for the entire Pacific.

"This a very sad day for myself personally and CUC. I, along with CUC, will miss his presence and his leadership," Camacho said, reminiscing on the work he and Malae did together.

Pacific media reported Malae's death at the LBJ Medical Center in American Samoa yesterday, reportedly due to an unknown illness.

Malae served as CUC assistant executive director for operation from 2009 through 2010 before serving as executive director for the corporation from November 2010 through June 2012. Camacho was director for power at the time.

"[Malae] and I spent a lot of time together here. He provided me good guidance over the years. He continued his support even when he had left the CNMI. When I was first placed in an acting capacity, he told me he had a lot of confidence in me and I appreciated that," said Camacho.

"That was something I needed to have at the time. It was very challenging and a big step for me and he understood the industry and the requirements of the position."

"His confidence in me allowed me to do the best I can. We talked back and forth regarding storms over the years and he was always supportive, [particularly] in the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor in 2015," said Camacho, adding that he recently got in touch with Malae to offer assistance in the wake of a storm in American Samoa. Malae was the executive director of the American Samoa Power Authority.

"We've always had a good working relationship and I have always had a lot of respect and admiration for him," he said.

Malae's influence was not only limited to the CNMI and American Samoa. He was the vice chairman of the Pacific Power Association in 2001 before becoming the acting chairman of the association a year later after the chairman, a resident of the CNMI, resigned. He was later on in the year chosen to serve a full two-year term with the association as he was working as chief of the American Samoa Power Authority.

In 2004, Malae left ASPA to act as president of the Development Bank of American Samoa—a state-owned bank—starting November 2004 and was later retained as president in September 2006 up to when he ran for American Samoa governor in 2008.

Malae announced a second attempt for the American Samoa gubernatorial position on Aug. 15, 2011, but later withdrew his candidacy to continue his work at CUC. He was crediting with stopping the rolling blackouts that were plaguing Saipan at that time.

KILILI

From Page 1

be here…"The law says that you can only hire a non-U.S. worker when there are no U.S. workers available," he said.

For many private companies, that includes offering internship opportunities to students to give them an idea of the workforce needs of the future, trade schools opening up courses that will teach local workers the skills to enter the job market, and job fairs that connect employers to prospective employees.

In July this year, H.R. 5956, or the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018, was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump.

That law raised the number of foreign worker visas, called CW-1 visa, to 13,000, and extended the foreign worker program, called CNMI-Only Transitional Worker permit program, through 2029. The wisdom behind the 10-year extension is to strengthen ongoing local initiatives to develop the CNMI's U.S. workforce, transitioning away from the decades-old reliance on the importation of foreign workers, mainly from the Philippines and China.

"For now, we need to focus on the training… As more workers are hired, there should be more in-house training. I want U.S. workers to get training and to be given a chance to work…

"There may be other things that we can do long-term to improve and make sure the opportunities for the U.S. workers go to U.S. workers," Sablan said.

He also believes that non-U.S. workers should be given immigration status other than CW-1.

"Make them more dignified and recognize their contribution… Many people here have given or have lived here over half of their lifetime and what do we say after that? Just thank you and goodbye? I would rather see that we take care of those who have been here for a long time than bring in completely new strangers," he said.

"I have worked on this to change the status of some non-U.S. workers. To give them status that remove them from CW and make them residents, even only in the CNMI for starters. They are not only workers; they are also consumers. Many have been here for a long time, have become part of the community, and many of them have children born here and these children are a potential market to hold jobs here," he added.

According to Sablan, the 10-year extension provided under H.R. 5956 should not be looked at as a leeway to be complacent. "I'm not looking at 10 years. I'm looking at today.... we need to do all that we can to give U.S. workers opportunities to work today."

Sablan described the example of Guam construction company Pacific Rim Constructors Inc., which recruited employees from not just Guam but also the Federated States of Micronesia. "They did this by offering better wages than is typically available in FSM," he said.

GOODBYE

From Page 1

Country Club golf course—ceased operations on Sept. 30, Sunday, officially ending its 40-year partnership with the CNMI.

Amador Asedillo and his other co-workers suddenly found themselves out of work after years of service under the Kitami-owned company that operated the Marpi property.

Asedillo, one of the maintenance crew of the company, said he and the other staff were informed by the owners that Mariana Resort had until Sept. 30.

"It is painful to know that this is the end and that you will be jobless after years of working here," he added."I won't be working here anymore. Kan Pacific still processed my CW1 papers but I was not one of those that they retained. They said that they would help me with my transfer once I find another company where I could work."

Another maintenance worker, Jose Dominador Pineda, was one of those lucky enough to be retained by Kan Pacific, as his services are still needed at the company's Zen Teppanyaki restaurant and Mariana Lounge, but he said that he would just finish the remainder of his CW1 visa and would go back to the Philippines. The Kitami family also owns Mariana Grand Services.

"I think it is about time for me to retire and just relax. I'm getting old, plus all of my kids are already finished with their studies, so I plan to go back. I have a small land where I can grow things. I'll just take care of that," said Pineda, who started working at Mariana Resort in 1993.

"My wife and I plan to go back to the Philippines next year. I'm also thinking of opening a small mechanic shop," added Pineda, whose three other sons are also working here on Saipan while the other two are also overseas—in Saudi Arabia and South Korea—while the eldest is in the Philippines.

Hoping for IPI

Asedillo said he and some other Kan Pacific workers were hoping and waiting for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to take over the operations of the Mariana Resort & Spa. But, as of this writing, the Department of Public Lands has yet to award them the property and allow them to take over the operations of the hotel since they are the lone bidder of both requests for proposals.

The CNMI Lottery Commission has already approved IPI's request to operate a less than 4- or 5-star hotel facility in order for them to take over the facility.

But the deal needs DPL's blessing since the Marpi land occupied by Mariana Resort & Spa is now government property as their lease extension had already expired. *Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from DPL Secretary Marianne Teregeyo but she has yet to respond as of press time.

"I would love to work under IPI when they take over here since this place has become special for some of us. I managed to buy a small property and send my kids to school with my salary while working here. Some of us were expecting that we would be absorbed by IPI when they take over but there's no assurance," said Asedillo.

They said that they still have three days left to finish packing and the other things that they are doing before the power and water supply will be cut off, and the entire property is cordoned off.

Community partner

Asedillo and Pineda said the management—from the owners to the management team led by former general manager Gloria Cavanagh—were excellent partners of the CNMI community.

"There have been a lot of things that happened in the CNMI, from the economy going down to other businesses that closed here. But the Kitami family, they stayed and continued their operations. Also, after Typhoon Soudelor, we went out clearing the road and cleaning debris with GM [Cavanagh] joining us," said Asedillo.

"They also hire locals and those who are looking for a job, even though they don't have any experience. We and the the staff that have been working here before them would train them. Once they learn, they either stay and work here or go to another company. The owners don't have any problems with that as long as they helped the person," added Pineda.

Asedillo said Mariana Resort & Spa became the first training center even before the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. "From grounds improvement to housekeeping, kitchen staff, wait staff, golf course, and even drivers. We helped train them."

E-learning made available to PSS personnel

E-instructors from CNMI Public School System participated in professional development in preparation for the opening of the online Fall 2018 semester of the Professional e-Learning Portal.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

E-instructors from CNMI Public School System participated in professional development in preparation for the opening of the online fall 2018 semester of the Professional e-Learning Portal—a branch of the Instructional Technology Program that offers professional development and certification online coursework to support PSS personnel.

The workshop, which was held last Saturday, Sept. 29, at Kanoa Resort, focused on strategies to support adult learning, increasing online engagement and promoting more content relevance.

The workshop was led by Instructional Technology Program leaders Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology, and Lorraine Catienza, Distance Education Program manager.

"It's another busy Saturday of learning and improving for our e-instructors who facilitate coursework for the portal. The focus today is on andragogy, adult learning theory," said Catienza. "The way we work with adults, especially professionals, is very different from the way we facilitate learning for students. The goal is to help our e-instructors add more rigor, relevance and participant voice in the courses we offer."

In addition, e-instructors were provided best practices for improving course objectives, refining performance tasks to promote relevance and increasing collaboration and engagement among participants. Participants in the workshop included interim education commissioner Glenn Muña, and associate commissioner Dr. Yvonne Pangelinan.

"The program is committed to helping PSS personnel sharpen their skills as educational practitioners to advance teaching and learning in the online learning environment," said Cruz. "By leveraging technology, we have created a sustainable platform through our learning management system to help personnel gain their certification."

The CNMI Public School System Professional e-Learning Portal has developed 36 online courses that align with the BOE certification and licensure requirements. The program is still in its piloting phase, with the goal of solidifying by next school year. At that point, the program should have a full range of online certification and professional development courses to support all educators.

"Instructional technology is committed to continuous improvement," Catienza said. "Each year we work with our e-instructors to assess a range of data that includes course evaluation. We use the input of the participants we serve to refine and improve our offerings to ensure quality teaching and learning." ***(PR)***

Brownstein, Aldan agree to settlement talks

The owner of an entertainment company that is suing a Honolulu-based ex-CNMI resident over a mothballed concert of the UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2015 have agreed to talks of a possible settlement.

Steven Brownstein, who owns Steven Brownstein Entertainment, and Jason H. Aldan, through their counsel, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday that they have agreed to schedule settlement talks in November.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the settlement conference for Nov. 15 at 8:30am before Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona set a pre-settlement conference for Nov. 1, 2018.

The jury trial is currently set for July 30, 2019.

Steven Pixley appeared as counsel for Brownstein. Charity Hodson stated she was standing in for Robert Torres, who is counsel for Aldan.

Hodson said she will be joining Torres in this case.

Brownstein filed an amended complaint after the court dismissed last November his claims of fraud and unjust enrichment against Aldan.

In April 2017, Brownstein sued Aldan and Fredrick Holloman and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly defrauding the firm of $115,000 by misrepresenting to have UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Aldan and Holloman have denied the allegations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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E-learning made available to PSS personnel

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"Instructional technology is committed to continuous improvement," Catienza said. "Each year we work with our e-instructors to assess a range of data that includes course evaluation. We use the input of the participants we serve to refine and improve our offerings to ensure quality teaching and learning." ***(PR)***

Brownstein, Aldan agree to settlement talks

The owner of an entertainment company that is suing a Honolulu-based ex-CNMI resident over a mothballed concert of the UB40 in Guam and Saipan in 2015 have agreed to talks of a possible settlement.

Steven Brownstein, who owns Steven Brownstein Entertainment, and Jason H. Aldan, through their counsel, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday that they have agreed to schedule settlement talks in November.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the settlement conference for Nov. 15 at 8:30am before Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Manglona set a pre-settlement conference for Nov. 1, 2018.

The jury trial is currently set for July 30, 2019.

Steven Pixley appeared as counsel for Brownstein. Charity Hodson stated she was standing in for Robert Torres, who is counsel for Aldan.

Hodson said she will be joining Torres in this case.

Brownstein filed an amended complaint after the court dismissed last November his claims of fraud and unjust enrichment against Aldan.

In April 2017, Brownstein sued Aldan and Fredrick Holloman and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly defrauding the firm of $115,000 by misrepresenting to have UB40 perform in Guam and Saipan in 2015.

Aldan and Holloman have denied the allegations. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Rotary eyes handicap-accessible playground

The Rotary Club of Saipan is looking to erect a handicap-accessible playground at the Sugar King Park—a regular playground that is also accessible to those with disabilities.

"The Saipan Mayor's Office is willingly allocating the property for us to build the playground and also help us clean and prepare the area to make sure that the handicapped parking is more accessible," said Rotary member Tatiana Babauta, who is coordinating the project, after Tuesday's Rotary Club meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Babauta noted that there will only be one disability parking in the area, and that formal paperwork might be in the works. However, Babauta said that official support would be coming from the Saipan Mayor's Office.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office director of field operations Joann Aquino, Babauta and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang met last Friday to discuss the park, which she notes would be the first of its kind on Saipan.

A timeline for the project has yet to be set, Babauta said, and price quotations have yet to be finalized. She did, however, note that the playground would be situated near the vendors in the park.

Majority of funding raised from the annual Las Vegas Night of the Rotary Club would be funneled toward the project, Babauta said.

"It all depends on how much we raise. Hopefully, we raise enough to fund the playground right away," she said, adding that pricing quotations are in the works.

Babauta said they are looking at accessible playgrounds in the U.S. mainland for ideas, such as the one in Gloucester County, New Jersey, which was also erected by the Rotary Club in the state. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

HB 20-79 a 'fitting end' for Year of the Reef

It would be a fitting end for the CNMI's commemoration of the International Year of the Reef if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signs into law House Bill 20-79 or the Coral Reef Protection Act of 2017.

The bill now heads to the governor's desk after it passed the House; it has already been passed at the CNMI Senate.

H.B. 20-79 aims to protect the CNMI's coral reefs by having them any coral damage restored using money collected from fines that are imposed on vessels that run aground or through anchor-related damage, destructive fishing practices, and non-permitted taking of threatened species of corals.

The Senate designated the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources as the regulating authority. The bill originally gave that job to the CNMI Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality.

The Senate finds that DFW is the proper agency to do that: creating rules and regulations, going after those who destroy coral reefs, and imposing fines. H.B. 20-79 also gives DFW the responsibility to promulgate the regulations.

"The Senate finds that [DFW] has the regulatory authority to go out and find these vessels that run aground. Because of the regulatory authority, the Senate took the position that it is more efficient to give it to [DFW]," said Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who introduced H.B. 20-79.

This is the third time that the world is celebrating the International Year of the Reef; it was last celebrated 10 years ago in 2008. The International Year of the Reef was first declared in 1997 to raise awareness about the growing threat of damage to coral reefs in the world's oceans.

Demapan said it would be fitting if Torres enacts the law before the year ends. "The most important thing for me is for this bill to pass and become a law. It is very timely since this is the International Year of the Coral Reef. It is a timely bill since a lot of countries and the nation as well are observing the Year of the Reef."

He said that H.B. 20-79 aims to make owners liable for damage if their vessel runs aground. He cited one vessel that ran aground but no fines were imposed on the owner.

"These fines and penalties will go into a restoration fund, which would allow the regulatory agencies to use that money to improve the lives of our coral reefs. And to do any restoration efforts where they can relocate coral reefs in certain areas that are damaged." ***(Jon Perez)***

Woman is arrested for entering Saipan as a tourist in 2015, with intent to give birth

A woman was arrested on Monday after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations agents learned that she entered the CNMI in 2015 as a tourist from China, but the real intent was allegedly to give birth.

Lichan Lu was arrested for lying to a U.S. government agency and improper entry. She was taken before the U.S. District Court for the NMI Tuesday afternoon for her initial appearance.

In his affidavit in support of a criminal complaint, HSI special agent Michael D. Lansangan said that HSI Saipan personnel saw Lu at the Marina Heights II building in Puerto Rico last Monday. The agents confirmed that Lu, a citizen of China, entered the CNMI as a tourist under the CNMI-only conditional parole.

Lu allegedly admitted lying to Customs and Border Protection officials about her intention for visiting Saipan, saying she came for tourism when, in fact, she intended to overstay to give birth here.

Lansangan said he received a tip last Monday that one of two women at the Marina Heights II building had admitted to being present in the CNMI illegally.

Lansangan said he and an HSI task force officer approached the two women and learned that one has a valid immigration status, but one, identified as Lu, does not.

During their interview, Lansangan said that Lu had stated that she wanted to give birth here, as she could not have her baby in their country because her husband already has children. Lu said she was scared that she may be forced to have an abortion.

Lansangan said that Lu admitted during their interview that she lied to the immigration officer at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and told the officer that she only came for travel/tourism.

Lu allegedly admitted that this was not true because she and her husband intended to stay on Saipan until she gave birth and could return to China.

The complaint did not mention about Lu's delivery. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Laszlo is new SCC executive director

Maxine Laszlo is the new executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, vice Jill Arenovski.

Laszlo's new role was announced Wednesday during the Chamber's October membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort &Spa Saipan.

Laszlo said she recognizes the importance of the business sector and the integral role it plays in the lives of people.

"The business sector is the backbone of our economy. Access to the major drivers of shelter, food, transportation, telecommunications, technology, entertainment, and other industries that advance our livelihoods are all connected to this sector. …and that is why I believe so strongly in supporting our businesses through the strength of the Chamber network."

Laszlo hopes that through her experience as a community advocate, she can offer new perspecitves to Chamber members.

In her new role, Laszlo and the SCC staff plan to incorporate more ways to add value to a Chamber membership by implementing the vision of the SCC board of directors.

"I look forward to executing their vision over the coming months and to listening to past, present, and prospecitve members on how the Chamber can better support their operations," says Laszlo.

Chamber president Velma Palacios welcomes Laszlo to the SCC staff and shares the board's excitement to work with her.

"Maxine has already demonstrated her dedication and commitment to the people of the CNMI through her hands on experience with CARE as executive director," Palacios said. "We know the resources and connections throughout the business community will help with the smooth transition into to her new role."

Laszlo holds a master's Degree in Public Affairs concentrating in nonprofit mangement and policy analysis. Most recently, she served as the second executive director of the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts. Laszlo also currently serves as the press officer of the Marianas Alliance for Non-Government Organizations and vice chair of the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. In 2017, Laszlo was awarded the Marianas Young Professionals "Volunteer of the Year."

Over the next two weeks, Laszlo is assisting the CARE Steering Committee with a succession strategy to ensure the continuity of planning for Typhoon Mangkhut long-term recovery. She starts full-time at the Chamber on Oct. 15. ***(PR)***

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, October 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Friday, October 5, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

I. Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
IV. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges for the following individuals: New Applicants:
1) Dr. Alan Zevallos
2) Dr. Paul Marano
3) Dr. Michael Hurley
V. Adjournment

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, October 04, 2018
5:00 PM, Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 09/13/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. Conditional Use Application #2018-1281: Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Board review and action on proposed ATV, UTV, Motorcycle Regs
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Magisland, LLC
dba: Saipan Beach Hotel

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Magisland, LLC dba Saipan Beach Hotel is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building with 25 units to operate a hotel. This use is classified as "Hotel" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 743-1-1-1 in Chalan Kanoa. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

Date: Thursday, October 04, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Latte Stone Conference Room, Kanoa Resort

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, October 03, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

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UOG Sea Grant Program gets $100K increase

The tide continues to rise at the University of Guam Sea Grant Program.

The National Sea Grant College Program announced a $100,000 annual increase in funding for the University of Guam. The announcement was made during the 2018 National Sea Grant Week conference, held Sept. 16–21 in Portland, Oregon.

The University of Guam attends Sea Grant Week 2018 in Portland, Oregon, where the National Sea Grant College Program's leadership announced a $100,000 annual increase in funding for the UOG Sea Grant Program. From left, Rebecca Elmore, UOG science communicator; Philip Cruz, UOG sustainability coordinator; Fran Castro, UOG Sea Grant Program leader; Cathleen Moore-Linn, executive director of the Research Corporation of the University of Guam; Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Sea Grant Program; Dr. Jonathan Pennock, director of the National Sea Grant College Program; Dr. Joshua E. Brown, program officer for Guam at the National Sea Grant College Program; and Dr. Nikola M. Garber, deputy director of the National Sea Grant Program. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM SEA GRANT PROGRAM

"We are pleased the National Sea Grant College Program is increasing its investment in the University of Guam and our community," said Dr. Thomas W. Krise, president of UOG. "UOG Sea Grant is an important program at UOG that brings science to our community and improves the management of our natural resources."

UOG Sea Grant brings the science of coastal resources to the people of Guam and the Micronesia region as one of 33 programs across the nation.

"We look forward to growing our impact in Guam and throughout the Micronesia region,"

said Dr. Austin Shelton, director of the UOG Sea Grant Program. "The additional funds will allow our program to support research and education that improves the health of coastal ecosystems and promotes environmental literacy and workforce development."

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership between universities and the federal government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency within the Department of Commerce. The Sea Grant network includes more than 3,000 scientists, engineers, public outreach experts, educators, and students.

For more information on the UOG Sea Grant Program, visit www.uogseagrant.edu. ***(UOG)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW18-IFB-025

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW EXTENSION FOR THE CNMI MEDICAID OFFICE BUILDING CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of New Extension for the CNMI Medicaid Office Building Capitol Hill**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 20, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 9, 2018, 9:00 a.m.** local time at the Project Site Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 17, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW18-IFB-025"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 26, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 26, 2018, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 26, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October **November 7, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 12, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on October 26, 2018.**

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PETER P. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

UOG a partner in UH's $3.9M grant to boost minority STEM graduates

From left, Cheryl R. Sangueza, assistant professor of secondary education at the University of Guam, who will jointly lead research efforts in the Western Pacific for a segment of the grant; Thomas W. Krise, president of UOG and co-principal investigator for the grant; Rachael Leon Guerrero, interim director of Research and Sponsored Programs at UOG and member of the grant's governing board; and Ross Miller, a professor of entomology at UOG who will serve as the LSAMP campus coordinator. UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam is part of an alliance of 11 Pacific colleges and universities that was cumulatively awarded a $3.9 million grant to increase the number of underrepresented minority students—especially native Pacific islanders—who receive degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, otherwise known as STEM.

UOG will receive a disbursement of the grant, which was awarded to the University of Hawaii at Hilo through the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation, for a five-year project that will run from Sept. 1, 2018, to Aug. 31, 2023.

"As a recipient of funding through the University of Hawaii at Hilo's grant, UOG is pleased to be able to grow our research capabilities and play an active role in building regional interest and success in the STEM fields," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise. "When minority populations are engaged and supported to excel, the global population benefits as a whole."

The alliance—named the Islands of Opportunity Alliance—seeks not only to increase the number of STEM graduates in the Pacific, but also to investigate how cultural understandings in the Pacific impact those numbers. To do this, the alliance will conduct exploratory ethnographic interviews, focus group interviews, and surveys among the island communities of the alliance schools to understand the cross-cultural beliefs of success in STEM.

The results of the interviews will inform the design of effective STEM programs, curricula, and research opportunities for native Hawaiian and Pacific islander students at five universities (UOG, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Chaminade University, and Hawaii Pacific University) and six community colleges (American Samoa Community College, College of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia - Federated States of Micronesia, Guam Community College, Northern Marianas College, and Palau Community College).

The grant is administered through UHH under the direction of interim chancellor Marcia Sakai.

Krise will replace former UOG president Robert Underwood as a co-principal investigator for the grant.

UOG's Ross Miller, a professor of entomology, will serve as the LSAMP campus coordinator as UOG serves as a hub to coordinate research experiences across the various campuses.

"For several years, IOA-LSAMP has provided funds for undergraduate students to gain hands-on experience in the sciences by working with faculty mentors on original research projects," Miller said. "Projects have ranged from looking at insecticide effects on snails to characterizing diatoms. We hope to expand the program in the future to include all of the STEM disciplines and encourage those in computer science, agriculture, chemistry, physics, and math to apply when the next round of internship opportunities is announced, probably later this semester."

Rachael Leon Guerrero, interim director of Research and Sponsored Programs at UOG, is replacing former director John Peterson as a member of the governing board, and UOG's Cheryl R. Sangueza, an assistant professor of secondary education, will partner with University of Hawaii at Hilo's Tobias Irish, an assistant professor of education, in leading the research and interview efforts in the Western Pacific.

"I am currently a co-principal investigator on the UOG National Science Foundation INCLUDES grant, and our project offers STEM research experiences and mentoring to high school, undergraduate, and graduate participants," Sangueza said. "I am very excited I now also get to work in partnership with fantastic people from UHH and our neighboring islands to continue to inspire and guide students in STEM learning experiences."

Krise, Miller, Leon Guerrero, and Sangueza will be attending an "all-hands kickoff meeting" for grant stakeholders and key personnel scheduled for early next year. ***(UOG)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

JKPL to host 7th Trunk-or-Treat

The 7th Annual Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 31, 2018, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe. Organizations who are willing to sponsor can contact Trunk-or-Treat coordinators Omar Manacop and/or Rose Ulloa at 235-7329/7315. You can also email jkplitc@gmail.com or rosalindaulloajkpl@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power outages

There will be power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

■ Saturday, Oct. 6, 5am to 10am affecting the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Dandan. Traffic lights at the intersections of Dandan to Airport Road, Dandan to As Lito and Dandan to Fina Sisu will be affected. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected.

■ Sunday, Oct. 7, from 5am to 10am, affecting the Chalan Pale Arnold in Puerto Rico. No traffic light intersection or water well will be affected but the wastewater lift stations in Lower Sadog Tasi and Lower Navy Hill will be affected.

■ Monday, Oct. 8, from 5am to 10am, affecting Chalan Pale Arnold in Lower Navy Hill. The Lower Navy Hill traffic light intersection and Calhoun water well will be affected. The Lower Sadog Tasi and Lower Navy Hill wastewater lift stations will be affected.

These will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen to replace wooden poles with concrete ones. ***(PR)***

'Our Sense of Place' forum today

"Our Sense of Place," a forum for Precinct 2 candidates that will be hosted by independent House candidate Christina Sablan, is set for today, Oct. 4, at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral, starting at 5:30pm. Members of the community are invited to share ideas on how to make Precinct 2 a better place to live, work, visit, and play. Precinct 2 includes Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Fina Sisu, As Lito, and As Perdido. The forum is free and all are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, contact Sablan at 285-3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

SINMI accepting applications for award

The Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands is now accepting applications for our annual Live Your Dream award. The completed application and two reference forms must be submitted before Oct. 10, 2018, for consideration in the judging process. For digital copies of both forms, email pbrown52@gmail.com.

These annual awards are given to women who are attending college or vocational training and who are the primary financial support for their family. A list of other requirements will be provided. The award money can be spent on whatever a recipient chooses.

Plan ahead to attend our award ceremony on Oct. 20 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan at 6pm. Ticket prices are $50. For more information, contact Pam Brown at (670) 483-9496 or Maureen Sebangiol at (670) 287-4674. ***(PR)***

Military training at FDM, W-11AB

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Oct. 5, from 11am to 11pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. ***(PR)***

FOA's Night at the Movies returns

The Friends of the Arts is bringing back its outdoor movie night at the Navy Hill baseball field, starting with the family movie, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle*, this Friday, Oct. 5.

Bring chairs or blankets, relax, and enjoy a night at the movies. Viewers can bring their own food or purchase drinks and snacks from the Marianas High School Theater Club. The movie lasts two hours and is rated PG-13 for its action content.

This production will be held on just one night, Oct. 5 at 7:30pm. If it rains on Oct. 5, the movie will be shown on the next night, Oct. 6. Tickets can be purchased at the show at $3 for children and students 4-11 years in age and $5 for adults and students over 11. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-001

SAIPAN & NORTHERN ISLANDS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUILDING

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council Building**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **October 4, 2018** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 23, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 31, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-001"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time November 14, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, November 14, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **November 14, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 23, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 28, 2018.** However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on November 14, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission**. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Seventy (270) consecutive calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred Fifty (US$350.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd floor-Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-002

ACCESSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CDA BUILDING

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Accessible Improvements for the Ground Floor of the CDA Building,** Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **September 27, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 16, 2018**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the CDA conference room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 22, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-002"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time October 31, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, October 31, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 31, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **November 13, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, November 16, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on October 31, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the

face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Forty-Five (45) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

MANUEL A. SABLAN
CDA Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

To lift the toxic cloud around Kavanaugh, let the FBI do its job

A toxic cloud of suspicion would have followed Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court if the Senate had confirmed his nomination without an independent investigation of Christine Blasey Ford's allegation that he sexually assaulted her when he was 17 and she was 15. Fortunately, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) forced a week's delay in the floor vote on Kavanaugh so the FBI could carefully investigate that and other "current credible allegations."

Or so it seemed. This weekend came reports that the FBI had been instructed to interview only four people: Mark Judge and P.J. Smyth, high school friends of Kavanaugh's; Leland Keyser, a friend of Ford's; and Deborah Ramirez, who has accused Kavanaugh of exposing himself to her when they were students at Yale University. An investigation that narrow would have been wholly insufficient and an obvious violation of the spirit of the agreement reached by the Senate Judiciary Committee to seek out the facts behind the allegations.

On Monday President Trump sent mixed messages about the scope of the probe. He told reporters that he favored a "very comprehensive investigation" but then qualified that by saying he hoped to defer to the Republican majority in the Senate. Then the New York Times reported that the White House had authorized the bureau to interview anyone it considers necessary as long as the review is finished by the end of the week. If that's the policy, it should be announced publicly so there is no ambiguity.

The fullest possible investigation is absolutely necessary given the seriousness of the allegations, the credibility of the accuser and the dearth of hard facts or persuasive corroboration. All we know for sure is that Ford is 100 percent certain Kavanaugh assaulted her and he categorically denies it.

The four individuals on the FBI's original list are undeniably important to the investigation. Judge especially, because Ford alleges that he was in the room when she says Kavanaugh tried to force himself on her in the early 1980s. Yet there are others who might be able to fill in blanks and they need to be interviewed as well. As do people who can confirm or refute Ramirez's allegation. And Julie Swetnick, who says Kavanaugh was present at a house party where she was gang-raped.

When the FBI has completed a thorough investigation —or as thorough an investigation as it can given the arbitrary one-week deadline —it should make its report, free of political influence. At that point, assuming that the president still has confidence in his nominee, the Senate can vote.

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Congress is finally doing something about the shrinking size of air-line seats
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
MARGULIES
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Why Americans are retiring later

By PETER R. ORSZAG
Bloomberg News

Peter R. Orszag is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a vice chairman of investment banking at Lazard. He was director of the Office of Management and Budget from 2009 to 2010, and director of the Congressional Budget Office from 2007 to 2008.

Something significant is happening in Social Security: People are retiring and taking their benefits later. These trends are at least in part the consequence of policy changes made in the early 1980s that were purposefully delayed in their implementation.

Consider this: In 1997, 57 percent of men claiming their retirement benefits under Social Security were 62, the earliest age at which one can do so. By 2017, that share had dropped to 34 percent because more people elected to put off claiming their benefits. As a result, the average age of a new male beneficiary has risen by a full year. (These data exclude disabled workers. There are other ways of doing the calculations, but they all show the same phenomenon.)

Not surprisingly, taking Social Security benefits later is also associated with delayed retirement. According to data from the Current Population Survey tabulated by Courtney Coile of Wellesley College, 38 percent of those aged 62 to 64 were working in 1990. By 2017, that share had risen to 53 percent.

Why are people delaying retirement and claiming their Social Security benefits later? One explanation is increased life expectancy and improved health. This probably isn't the full explanation, however, if only because life expectancy changes have been very uneven, as have changes in health status. A second factor is that private pensions have transitioned from defined-benefit plans to defined-contribution ones, and that creates less of an incentive to retire earlier.

Another important reason is changes made way back in 1983, when a Social Security reform following the Greenspan Commission's recommendations gradually raised what is called the full retirement age from 65 to 67. Full implementation of those increases was delayed for almost 20 years, so that the changes wouldn't unnecessarily disrupt retirement plans. The ongoing retirement age changes have attracted very little recent public attention, even though the first tranche of the rise, to age 66, is already over, and we are almost halfway through the transition to 67, which will be complete by 2022.

The rise in the full retirement age has two types of effects on when people decide to claim their benefits. The first is that it reduces the monthly benefit received at any given age. For example, when the full retirement age is 67, those deciding to take their benefits at 62 can do so only by accepting a 30 percent discount per month on the "full" benefit. When the full retirement age was 65, the discount was 20 percent. (The goal of these adjustments is to offset the longer time those claiming their benefits earlier will receive them, on average. Most of the evidence, however, suggests that many people claim their benefits too soon and would be better off, in expected value, if they waited.)

The second, and more important, effect is that the full retirement age creates a social norm influencing when people retire and also take their benefit. People may be drawn to the age at which benefits are called "full" even though there's nothing particularly special that happens at that age. Therefore, when the full retirement age is raised, people push back when they take their benefits.

The statistical evidence suggests that the increase in the full retirement age has indeed delayed benefit claiming, most likely because of this anchoring effect.

So reforms enacted in 1983 are having an effect on how people nearing retirement behave today. Three conclusions follow:

First, delayed implementation with gradual phase-ins makes policy reforms more politically viable. The ongoing increase in the full retirement age is currently creating almost no political backlash, because it requires no new vote by Congress and because it is happening gradually. That may provide a pathway forward for other policy changes that raise revenue or reduce other expenditures.

Second, the problem with delayed implementation is that the world can change between enactment and implementation. Policy makers in 1983, for example, likely did not foresee that life expectancy would stagnate for low- and moderate-income workers in the meanwhile. The growing gap in life expectancy raises serious questions about any further increases in the full retirement age, since averages are becoming increasingly misleading when it comes to anything linked to mortality.

Finally, the key role played by the full retirement age in driving decisions—well beyond what an Economics 101 model would suggest—highlights the need for more policies to take behavioral economics into account. Over the past decade, governments across the world have begun exploring how to use nudges and norms (Richard Thaler has won the Nobel Prize in economics for work in the area). But while there have been some limited successes, a large potential to better incorporate psychology into public policy remains to be tapped.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Remembering soldiers and the demons they carried

By LEO RYAN
The Baltimore Sun

Leo Ryan is an associate judge on the District Court of Maryland.

One hundred years ago, on Sept. 26, 1918, in Northeast France, the American Army began the offensive that would ultimately end World War I and send ripples across 20th century history. The tip of the spear in General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing's attack that day was the 79th Division's 313th Infantry Regiment, otherwise known as "Baltimore's Own." My grandfather, Thomas Gilmor Ryan, was a member of that regiment.

I never met my grandfather. He died in 1950, eight years before I was born. I first learned of his participation in the greatest battle of the Great War while doing genealogical research. I found a copy of the Interment Control Form for his burial in the Baltimore National Cemetery. He enlisted on April 25, 1918, and was assigned to the HQ Company of the 313th. After only five months of training at Fort Meade he was thrust into the maw of "modern" mechanized warfare in the Meuse-Argonne.

In the early morning hours of the 26th, the 313th Infantry Regiment was assigned the task of taking the elevated German position at Montfaucon. The battle was joined in the pre-dawn hours by an intense Allied artillery bombardment. It is estimated that in the three hours before the troops began their attack, more shells were fired than had been used in the entire Civil War. What must young Thomas have thought? As the shells whistled over his head, did he think of his parents on Myrtle Avenue in Baltimore or long to be driving his ice wagon through the streets of his home town? I'll never know for sure, but I do know what he surely didn't: that the next several hours would expose him to barely imaginable horror.

The assault did not go well for the boys from Baltimore. They were the greenest of green, and the German troops, in addition to commanding a view of the entire battlefield from the top of Montfaucon, were seasoned by long exposure to battle. Communication in the Meuse-Argonne was spotty at best, and this, combined with the slow advance of the 313th, meant that artillery support soon outpaced the troops on the ground. Unchecked by Allied artillery, the entrenched German forces rained machine gun fire and poison gas on the regiment. An expected flanking maneuver from the troops on the right never materialized, and the advance of the 313th slowed to a crawl. Young men, who only months earlier had watched their comrades in arms take on the Baltimore Orioles in an exhibition baseball game, were now bogged down in a killing field. Somehow, Thomas Ryan survived.

Eventually, slowly, the 313th took Montfaucon. In the days and weeks that followed, the Allied forces advanced steadily, and on Nov. 11, 1918, the Great War would end. Henry Gunther, another boy from Baltimore, would be the last soldier killed in the war. By early June of 1919, Thomas Ryan and the rest of the 313th returned to Baltimore and were feted with parades and banquets. On July 9 of that year, my grandfather was discharged from the Army.

Thomas attempted to live what one would call a normal life after his service. He married, had 10 children, and returned to work driving wagons and later trucks.

He also drank. He drank a lot. He was abusive to his wife and children, so much so that his sons and daughters would rarely speak his name. The wounds were so deep that his youngest son, my father, was not able to forgive the abuse until he himself lay dying of cancer, some 40 years after Thomas' death.

I have tried to learn more about my grandfather's service, to perhaps understand the violence he inflicted on his family. His military records were lost in a fire in 1973, so I may never know more fully the role he played in that great battle a century ago. I may never know if the demons that chased him and haunted his family were purchased at Montfaucon. But I suspect that is so.

One hundred years later, it is worth remembering that the results of great battles ripple not only across the pages of history books, they also ripple across the lives of the soldiers who come home damaged from the duty we ask them to perform. It is also worth hoping that someday, we might stop asking them to perform it.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Taga Time Traveler Theory to Tinian Tomorrow

The following sonnet is written in honor of Tinian's first Gineptin Ha'anen Taga, Chief Taga Festival on Oct. 7, 2018.

A tiny treatise for you on theoretic time travel and Taga
to understand you must accept a certain time travel theory
space travelers may come here like the flying fish gaga
through a space time continuum and they never grow weary.
Time flying fish see above,below,beyond surfaces of time and history
where we are going what we saw and when and where we did go
the future development for Taga time travelers is not a mystery
they can compare the future with what happened a long time ago.

One thing for certain just a few or even many years from now
bula guihan, katnen guaka, gollai hagun suni, yan mannge' chow
the future is alive and well in Taga Park and in Tinian today
with any advancement time will bring some loss and sorrow
Taga's spirit is alive in the people of Tinian and in their DNA
So tune in to your own progress towards the Tinian of tomorrow.

Hope For the Future, a Prayer For Political Peace

"Democracy is the worst form of government except for all others that have been tried from time to time." So said Winston Churchill, quoting an unknown predecessor. This poem is a litany of hope for democracy and the US Supreme Court. A litany is a prayer consisting of a series of invocations and supplications by the leader with alternate responses by the congregation. The response in this secular litany is, "Hope for the future." Hope is used as both a verb and a noun in the poem.

Let us pray for political peace. Response: Hope for the future
Partisan politics is dividing the country. Hope for the future
Let opponents fight inside reality ropes. Hope for the future
Prevent the country from being torn apart. Hope for the future
From accused and accuser lets hear the inside dope. Hope for ...
Let the FBI do a proper and thorough investigation. Hope for ...
May the light of reason into darkness grope. Hope for the future
Present all sides of each and every situation. Hope for the future
Wash dirty politics with sensible and sound thinking soap. Hope...
On denial of women's rights just say nope. Hope for the future
Keep the doors of democracy wide open. Hope for the future
Let us remember Pres. John F. Kennedy's famous quote. Hope ...
Private and public prayers from a penitent Pope. Hope for the ...
Don't be discouraged by bruised democracy. Hope for the future.

America's bullies

By ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune News Service

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich is a professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of Aftershock: The Next Economy and America's Future. *He blogs at www.robertreich.org.*

Childhood bullying has been going on forever. But America has become a culture of bullying—the wealthier over the poorer, CEOs over workers, those with privilege and pedigree over those without, the white over the brown and black, men over women.

Sometimes the bullying involves physical violence. More often it entails intimidation, displays of dominance, demands for submission, or arbitrary decisions over the lives of those who feel they have no choice but to accept them.

The hearing for Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Sept. 27 was a window into our bullying culture.

On one side: powerful men who harass or abuse women and get away with it, privileged white men intent on entrenching their power on the Supreme Court, men vested with the power to take away a woman's right to choose what she does with her body.

On the other side: women with the courage to tell what has happened to them, to demand an end to white male privilege, and to preserve and enlarge their constitutional rights.

Dr. Christine Blasey Ford was poised, articulate, clear and convincing. More than that: She radiated self-assured power.

Kavanaugh, by contrast, showed himself to be a vicious partisan—a Trump-like figure who feels entitled to do and say whatever he wants, who suspects left-wing plots against him, who refuses to take responsibility for his actions, and who uses emotional bullying and intimidation to get his way.

Even if Kavanaugh gets on the Supreme Court, a large portion of the American public will never trust him to be impartial. Many will never believe his denials of sexual harassment. Most will continue to see him as the privileged, arrogant, self-righteous person he revealed himself to be.

Which brings us to the upcoming midterm elections.

It's not really a contest between Democrats or Republicans, left or right. It's a contest between the bullies and the bullied. It's about the power of those who are rich, white, privileged or male—or all of the above—to threaten and intimidate those who aren't.

And it's about the courage of the bullied to fight back.

Donald Trump is America's bully-in-chief. He exemplifies those who use their wealth to gain power and celebrity, harass or abuse women and get away with it, lie and violate the law with impunity, and rage against anyone who calls them on their bullying.

Trump became president by exploiting the anger of millions of white working-class Americans. Trump used this anger to build his political base, channeling the frustrations and anxieties into racism and nativism. He encouraged Americans who have been bullied to feel more powerful by bullying people with even less power: poor blacks, Latinos, immigrants, Muslims, families seeking asylum.

This bullying game has been played repeatedly in history, by self-described strongmen who pretend to be tribunes of the oppressed by scapegoating the truly powerless.

Trump is no tribune of the people. He and his enablers in the Republican Party are working for the moneyed interests—the Koch brothers, Sheldon Adelson and other corporate and Wall Street chieftains—by cutting their taxes, eliminating regulations, slashing public services and allowing them to profit off public lands, coastal waters and privatized services.

The moneyed interests are America's hidden bullies. They have enlarged their net worth by repressing wages (or pushing the companies they invest in to do so), and enlarged their political power through gerrymandering and suppressing votes (or pushing their political lackeys to do so).

Their capacity to bully has grown as the nation's wealth has become concentrated in fewer hands, as the economy has become more monopolized, and as American politics has become more engulfed by big money.

It is time to fight back against the bullies. It is time to join together to reclaim economic and political power.

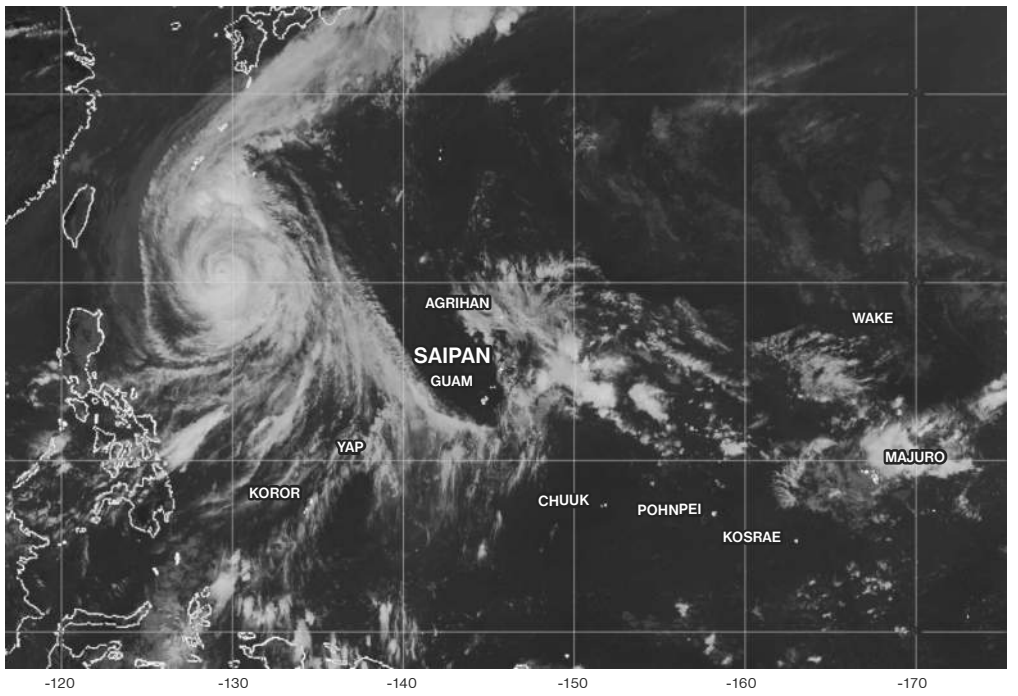
It begins with the midterm elections on Nov. 6.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:41 AM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered over the Marianas, moving slowly west. Cloudiness and showers are seen on satellite imagery east of the islands near 148E, and south through southeast of Guam and Rota outside the marine zones. But subsidence near the center of the low is keeping the Marianas waters mainly clear. Northeast winds are moderate, and combined seas are currently around 6 feet at the Tanapag buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	87° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 52°
Beijing	Sunny	79° / 54°
Hong Kong	Sunny	84° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Melbourne	Sunny	66° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	82° / 65°
Osaka	Showers	81° / 72°
Paris	Sunny	70° / 43°
Busan	Rain	72° / 70°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	81° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	90° / 67°
San Francisco	Showers	64° / 54°
Seoul	Showers	72° / 59°
Tokyo	Showers	72° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 70°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.64
9:06 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.09
4:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82
10:05 PM	LOW TIDE	1.11

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:01 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:58 AM	2:12 PM	-
Friday	1:59 AM	3:07 PM	-
Saturday	3:00 AM	3:58 PM	-
Sunday	4:00 AM	4:46 PM	-
Monday	4:59 AM	5:32 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA105	4:55am	5:41am	3, 5
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
UA104	11:30pm	12:16am+1	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ625	8:40pm	2:10am+1	7
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:35am	2, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:20pm	2:50am+1	1, 5

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	8:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	8:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	8:45am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174 via GUM	10:25pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
PR110/UA174	10:55pm	7:45am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	7:45am+1	2, 5 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:30am	8:25am	1
UO43	6:00am	8:40am	1, 3, 5
UA117/159	8:45am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:25am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:30am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SPONSOR CONTENT

IT&E supports mental health, disaster relief, and education

HARMON, Guam—In September, IT&E partnered with several organizations, including the Project Inspire Foundation, the American Red Cross, Guam Department of Education, and the NMI Humanities Council, to advocate for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

IT&E worked with the Project Inspire Foundation of Guam to bring attention to an issue that affects many in our community, but often is not discussed openly. IT&E presented Project Inspire Foundation with $3,000 for Life! Camera! Action! last Sept. 27, which raised funds for and highlighted suicide prevention and mental health awareness. The event included a silent art auction, live music, and a film contest. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to organizations that reach out the youth and provide safe spaces for them, including Gametime Inc. Guam, Island Girl Power, and Sanctuary Inc. Guam.

T&E presents Project Inspire Foundation with $3,000 for the Life! Camera! Action! event last Sept. 27, which raised funds for and highlighted suicide prevention and mental health awareness. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Danny Daniel, senior manager of brand and public relations said that art "often allows us to open up about our thoughts, feelings, experiences, and dreams and has a way of bringing people together. This event harnesses the power of art to start conversations about mental health and wellness that could otherwise be difficult for some people. We applaud the Project Inspire Foundation for creating this space for these kinds of conversations and we're happy to be a part of it."

In the wake of the devastation of Typhoon Mangkhut, IT&E has been working to assist in any way it can. To support the American Red Cross-Guam Chapter, IT&E presented the organization with $3,000 for its signature event, the Red Ball.

In support of providing safe, accessible education to Guam's youth, IT&E donated $2,500 for the 2018 GDOE Be Healthy, Be Smart 5K/2K Fun Run, which was held on Sept. 29.

IT&E gives its support to for publication education by presenting a donation for the 2018 GDOE 2K/5K Fun Run. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Other community partnerships in September include:

■ In support of cultural diversity and to promote cultural appreciation, IT&E presented the Korean Association of Guam with $2,000 for the 1st Annual Korean Festival held on Sept. 21.

■ IT&E presented the Tan Siu Lin Foundation with $3,000 for the 3rd Annual We Will Never Forget Field of Heroes event honoring our country's heroes and in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack in New York. Proceeds from the event will go to the NMI Humanities Council's efforts to support servicemen and women that suffer from post-traumatic stress.

IT&E remains committed to doing its part to help the community thrive, protect, and develop our youth, promote health and wellness, preserve the environment, and honor the vibrant cultures of the Marianas and Guam. ***(PR)***

IT&E and community partners discuss the importance of mental health awareness and suicide prevention at a press conference on Sept. 25 at Tumon Sands Plaza. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IT&E partners with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation to help support service member suffering from post-traumatic stress and to honor those who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Educating employers on service members' duties

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee in the CNMI have been key to educating employers about the duties and responsibilities of their workers who are also service members.

That special role of ESGR and the committee were honored Tuesday at the House of Representatives with House Resolution 20-40 that also praised employers who have service members in their workforce.

ESGR volunteer Joann Aquino, S/Sgt. Philip Aldan, S/Sgt. Kelby Benavente Royal, and Sgt. John Magofna received the especially made plaque of H.R. 20-40 that was introduced by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan).

Aquino thanked the House members for recognizing their efforts through H.R. 20-40 with the awarding being postponed twice due to bad weather. "We appreciate this. And we want to thank all the employers who continue to support the wonderful men and women who serve on the Guard Reserve and other branches of reservists."

Demapan said the ESGR has ensured that employers in the CNMI support their workers who are reservists when the call of duty comes. "This is either for drill, annual training, or actual deployment. They [ESGR] make sure that there's support from employers when the call of duty comes."

"We're happy to have an organization like the ESGR and that they aere able to educate and provide awareness to employers to ensure that when our service members respond to the call of duty, they come back home to the jobs that they left behind."

H.R. 20-40 also recognizes ESGR's contributions to the community and the service members' sacrifices. "We recognize the service members for their duty, honor, and for their response to the call to serve the nation in the name of homeland security. And for contribution you make when you come back home to your respective jobs."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve members, led by volunteer Joann Aquino, fifth left, join members of the House of Representatives for a group photo after receiving a House resolution honoring their contribution to the community last Tuesday at the House chamber on Capital Hill. JON PEREZ

H.R. 20-40 recognizes the service and commitment shown by the ESGR and the committee's volunteer members in helping the men and women who are called to serve.

The ESGR, a program under the Department of Defense that started in 1972, was established in order to promote cooperation between reserve component service members and their civilian employers.

The ESGR also assists in educating employers in resolving conflicts that may arise from the military commitment by an employee.

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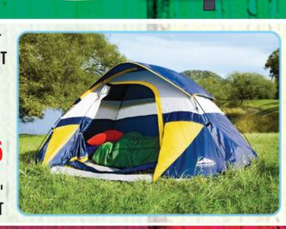
$7.95 TGF OVERFILLED PILLOW

$39.95 NORTHWEST FOLDING COT (TX-E103S)

$39.95 NORTHWEST 9'X7' SIERRA DOME TENT



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Business

RIPPLE EFFECT?

Amazon's $15 wage may help boost pay elsewhere

WASHINGTON (AP)—After years of sluggish pay gains, the economy may be starting to work for America's low-wage workers.

Amazon's announcement Tuesday that it will raise its minimum wage to $15 an hour will intensify pressure on other companies to lift their pay levels as well. Among the most likely to do so: Amazon's rival retailers and warehouse operators, many of which are facing the prospect of staff shortages as they ramp up for the holiday shopping season.

"This is going to be a big deal for very low-wage workers," said Ben Zipperer, an economist at the liberal Economic Policy Institute. "It's going to compel other businesses to raise wages as well."

Low-wage workers typically receive higher pay from an expanding economy only after higher-income people have benefited, economists note. Now, with the unemployment rate near a 50-year low and the number of job openings exceeding the number of unemployed, more lower-income Americans are finally receiving meaningful raises.

Low-paid workers "get kicked the most in the recession, and they generally benefit more later in the boom," said David Neumark, an economist at University of California, Irvine.

Accordingly, retailers, who employ a sizable share of the nation's lower-paid workers, have been stepping up pay increases. Average hourly wages for retail workers, excluding managers, rose 4 percent in August compared with 12 months earlier.

Amazon's announcement will likely embolden labor activists and unions that have been pressing large fast-food and retail chains to raise pay, provide more reliable work schedules, and allow for union representation.

Among the critics Amazon has faced over its pay and work conditions, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont has noted that some of its workers receive food stamps and other benefits that are geared for the poor, while its owner Jeff Bezos has become the world's wealthiest person.

"Now that activists have succeeded, they can now take that demand to other employers," said Marshall Steinbaum, a fellow at the Roosevelt Institute. "You say you can't afford this, but your competitor obviously can."

Indeed, shares of retail companies fell sharply Tuesday in a sign that investors expect them to have to raise pay to compete with Amazon, a step that would potentially slow their profits. Best Buy's share price dropped nearly 5 percent; Kohl's Stores fell 3.9 percent.

Amazon, the world's largest online retailer, also said Tuesday that it will lobby to raise the federal minimum wage from $7.25 an hour, though it did not say what figure it would push for. The impact of a higher federal wage, though, would likely be modest, because more than 20 states have minimum wages above the federal level.

A higher federal minimum wage could intensify pressures on smaller businesses that don't have the financial resources that Amazon has to raise pay significantly.

Can Trump's bullying style deliver more trade breakthroughs?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has muscled Canada into joining a revamped North American trade deal, sealed a pact with South Korea and coaxed a reluctant Japan into agreeing to one-on-one trade talks.

All in the past two weeks.

To President Donald Trump and his allies, the results vindicate his drive to upend traditional trade policy and deploy import taxes—real and threatened—as a cudgel to bully concessions out of America's trading partners.

"Without tariffs," Trump bold declared Monday after his team announced that Canada had followed Mexico in agreeing to a revamped North American deal, "we wouldn't be standing here."

Some likeminded business groups agree that Trump's in-your-face style, a far more confrontational stance than his predecessors deployed, deserves credit.

"Aggressive unilateral action is making deals more possible," said Michael Stumo, CEO of the Coalition for a Prosperous America, which supports a combative U.S. trade policy.

Negotiating without a credible threat of trade sanctions, Stumo argued, "leaves no incentive for other countries to agree to anything new."

Critics, though, contend that Trump's apparent breakthroughs appear much more impressive than they actually are. What's more, they say, the backlash the administration could face in the future from formerly friendly trade partners could diminish whatever gains have been achieved.

"You set a bunch of fires ... you put them out and you call yourself a hero," said Philip Levy, senior fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a White House economist under President George W. Bush.

The critics say the recent trade deals have produced few concrete gains and offer scant reason for optimism about the administration's riskiest gamble of all: The trade war it's ignited with China, the world's second-biggest economy after the United States.

Trump entered the office vowing to reduce America's gaping trade deficit—$553 billion last year—with the rest of the world by tearing up trade agreements and confronting abusive practices by China and other countries. In March, he began imposing taxes on steel and aluminum imports. Four months later, he threatened to target foreign autos and auto parts—imports that amounted to $340 billion last year.

Trump justified the moves by arguing that the imports posed a threat to U.S. national security. Many trade analysts dismissed that rationale as preposterous. Most of the targeted imports, after all, come from U.S. allies—Canada, the European Union and Japan.

Whatever the legitimacy of his tariffs, by imposing and threatening them on national security grounds, Trump created leverage for himself. He upped the ante by threatening to abandon a regional pact with Canada and Mexico—and thereby imperil supply chains that crisscross borders—unless he could get what he considered an acceptable rewrite of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

America's trading partners began to buckle under the pressure.

Nation

Trump mocks Kavanaugh accuser

SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (AP)—President Donald Trump ignited a crowd at a campaign rally in Mississippi by mocking a woman who has claimed she was sexually assaulted by Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh decades ago.

» He once called accuser credible witness

The audience laughed as Trump ran through a list of what he described as holes in Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. She testified that Kavanaugh pinned her on a bed, tried to take off her clothes and covered her mouth in the early 1980s, when the two were teenagers. Kavanaugh has denied Ford's allegations.

"How did you get home? 'I don't remember,'" Trump said at the rally Tuesday in Southaven. "How did you get there? 'I don't remember.' Where is the place? 'I don't remember.' How many years ago was it? 'I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.'"

Imitating Ford, he added, "But I had one beer — that's the only thing I remember."

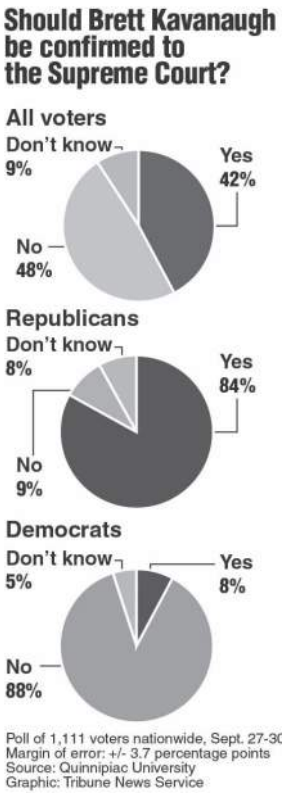
It marked the sharpest criticism by Trump of Ford since she came forward publicly with the allegation last month. He had previously called Ford a "very credible witness."

Ford's lawyer Michael Bromwich called Trump's attack "vicious, vile and soulless."

"Is it any wonder that she was terrified to come forward, and that other sexual assault survivors are as well?" Bromwich tweeted. "She is a remarkable profile in courage. He is a profile in cowardice."

The president was in Mississippi on Tuesday looking to use his influence to sway the outcome of a low-profile election that could tip the balance of the Senate.

As Republicans fight headwinds ahead of the Nov. 6 midterm election, Trump sought to rally his supporters behind GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, who was appointed to fill the seat of Republican Thad Cochran, who retired in April. She faces three candidates — Republican Chris McDaniel and Democrats Mike Espy and Tobey Bernard Bartee — in next month's special election for the remainder of the two-year term.



"She's always had my back," Trump said. "She's always had your back. And a vote for Cindy is a vote for me."

But Trump spent much of the rally lamenting the treatment of Kavanaugh by Democrats, whose attacks, he said, had taken their toll on the judge's family.

"A man's life is in tatters," he said. Of Democrats, he added, "These are really evil people."

Flooding from remnants of tropical storm traps Phoenix cars

PHOENIX (AP)—Remnants of a tropical storm drenched parts of the desert Southwest on Tuesday, trapping some drivers on swamped Phoenix streets as authorities prepared for possible flash flooding in Arizona, central Utah and elsewhere.

Rosa, a hurricane that was downgraded to a tropical storm and then to a tropical depression, reportedly killed one person in northwestern Mexico before moving north into the U.S.

The National Weather Service issued a flash-flood warning for the Phoenix area, saying that more than 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain fell in metro Phoenix by midmorning and additional rain was expected. The day was the city's second wettest October day on record, the agency said.

Meteorologist Jaret Rogers said the rain appeared to be dissipating, with scattered showers predicted for the rest of the day and into the next. The moisture from the storm was expected to move out of Arizona by Wednesday afternoon and bring rain to Utah and Colorado.

Flash-flood watches remained in effect for parts of those two states.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert declared a state of emergency Tuesday evening in advance of potential flooding from the remnants of Rosa.

Herbert said communities near burn scars created by recent wildfires were at increased risk for flash flooding and debris flow.

On Monday, Herbert mobilized about 200 National Guard soldiers to prepare for potential flooding south of Salt Lake City. The soldiers were building flood berms and erecting barriers and sandbags.

Phoenix sees sudden and heavy downpours during the summertime monsoon, but the continuously falling rain is a rarity.

The heavy showers caused a riverbed to overflow, spilling muddy waters into a north Phoenix intersection. Firefighters slogged through waist-deep water to get to people stuck in their cars. Crews pulled at least six people, including a child, from vehicles and carried them one at a time to a firetruck.

Around 10 vehicles, including a bus, were either at a standstill in the water or tried to drive through it.

Rogers warned that even a short outburst of rain could still cause flooding in some areas.

"It won't take much to add to the flooding potential," Rogers said. "Once the ground's saturated, it basically can't hold any more water. It just runs off rather than being absorbed by the ground."

The wet weather was a factor in numerous Phoenix-area freeway wrecks, but no serious crashes were reported, said Trooper Kameron Lee of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

Authorities warned drivers to avoid entering streets or washes inundated with water.

A reporter for Phoenix news station KNXV-TV posted a video on social media showing a person riding a unicycle into a flooded area, prompting the weather service to reiterate that all types of vehicles should stay away.

The rain also led three elementary schools and one high school to close for the day. Maricopa Community Colleges canceled classes at all 10 of its campuses.

Asia

INDONESIA QUAKE, TSUNAMI

Aid trickles in

PALU, Indonesia (AP)—Aid was slowly making its way into areas devastated by the earthquake and tsunami that struck a central Indonesian island, with one neighborhood's residents clapping, cheering and high-fiving in their excitement Wednesday at seeing a stopped truck laden with supplies.

"I'm so happy," said Heruwanto, 63, who goes by one name. He was clutching a box of instant noodles. "I really haven't eaten for three days."

Food, water, fuel and medicine had yet to reach the hardest-hit areas outside Palu, the largest city heavily damaged in Friday's disasters. Many roads were broken and split by the violent shaking or blocked by debris. Communication lines were also down or limited.

"We feel like we are stepchildren here because all the help is going to Palu," said Mohamad Taufik, 38, from the town of Donggala, where five of his relatives are still missing. "There are many young children here who are hungry and sick, but there is no milk or medicine."

The official death toll rose to 1,234 with hundreds injured, but officials acknowledged scores of uncounted bodies could still be buried in collapsed buildings in Sigi and Balaroa.

The U.N. humanitarian office said "needs are vast," with people urgently requiring shelter, clean water, food, fuel and emergency medical care.

Water is the main issue because most of the supply infrastructure has been damaged, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York. He said the government is coordinating emergency efforts, and U.N. and relief agencies are on the ground or en route.

Source: USGS, Nextzen, OpenStreetMap
Graphic: Staff, TNS, Los Angeles Times

More than 25 countries offered assistance after Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo appealed for international help. Little of that, however, has reached the disaster zone, and increasingly desperate residents grabbed food and fuel from damaged stores and begged for help. Widodo arrived in the disaster zone Wednesday and was expected to tour various areas and visit a hospital.

Some homeless residents weren't waiting for help. Dozens sifted through what remained of a flattened complex of warehouses along Palu's ravaged coastline, looking for anything they could salvage to help them rebuild or sell. They carted away corrugated metal, wood, piping and other items.

"We have to do this because there's no assistance from the government," said Zaitun Rajamangili, 41, adding his home was swept away but his family survived.

An aircraft carrying 12,000 liters (3,170 gallons) of fuel had arrived, and trucks with food were on the way with police escorts to guard against looters. Many gas stations were inoperable either because of quake damage or from people stealing fuel, national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said in Jakarta.

The frustration of waiting for days without help has angered some survivors.

"Pay attention to Donggala, Mr. Jokowi. Pay attention to Donggala," yelled one resident in a video broadcast on local TV, referring to the president. "There are still a lot of unattended villages here."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's PM reshuffles Cabinet; foreign, trade ministers stay

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reshuffled his Cabinet on Tuesday, retaining key diplomatic and economy posts as Japan tackles tough trade talks with the U.S. Abe was re-elected in September to head the Liberal Democratic Party for a third term, paving the way to serve as Japan's leader for up to three more years. Tuesday's reshuffle, Abe's fourth since taking office in 2012, kept Foreign Minister Taro Kono, Finance Minister Taro Aso, Economy Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Trade Minister Hiroshige Seko—core members of Abe's government who have worked on tough negotiations on trade and other issues with their increasingly demanding American counterparts. For defense minister, Abe appointed Takeshi Iwaya, a ruling party national security expert who is expected to follow his policy seeking a stronger military role for Japan." I will pursue economic and diplomatic policies built on a stable foundation after five years and nine months of accomplishments," Abe told a news conference Tuesday.

PH military chief: Duterte critic requested amnesty

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military chief testified Tuesday that an opposition senator formally applied for amnesty for his involvement in past military mutinies based on an amnesty officer's account, contradicting the reason given by the president for revoking the 2011 amnesty in August. Military chief Gen. Carlito Galvez told a military budget hearing at the Senate that a military officer said she administered an oath to former navy officer Antonio Trillanes IV when he applied for the amnesty. Trillanes later ran for a Senate seat and became President Rodrigo Duterte's fiercest critic. Duterte said he voided Trillanes' amnesty and ordered his arrest because the senator had failed to file a formal amnesty application and acknowledge guilt. Trillanes has strongly denied the president's claims and has shown defense department documents and news reports to counter them.

World

US to offer cyberwar capabilities to NATO

BRUSSELS (AP)—Acting to counter Russia's aggressive use of cyberattacks across Europe and around the world, the U.S. is expected to announce that, if asked, it will use its formidable cyberwarfare capabilities on NATO's behalf, according to a senior U.S. official.

The announcement is expected in the coming days as U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis attends a meeting of NATO defense ministers on Wednesday and Thursday.

Katie Wheelbarger, the principal deputy assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, said the U.S. is committing to use offensive and defensive cyber operations for NATO allies, but America will maintain control over its own personnel and capabilities.

The decision comes on the heels of the NATO summit in July, when members agreed to allow the alliance to use cyber capabilities that are provided voluntarily by allies to protect networks and respond to cyberattacks. It reflects growing concerns by the U.S. and its allies over Moscow's use of cyber operations to influence elections in America and elsewhere.

"Russia is constantly pushing its cyber and information operations," said Wheelbarger, adding that this is a way for the U.S. to show its continued commitment to NATO.

She told reporters traveling to NATO with Mattis that the move is a signal to other nations that NATO is prepared to counter cyberattacks waged against the alliance or its members.

Much like America's nuclear capabilities, the formal declaration of cyber support can help serve as a military deterrent to other nations and adversaries.

The U.S. has, for some time, considered cyber as a warfighting domain, much like air, sea, space and ground operations. In recent weeks the Pentagon released a new cybersecurity strategy that maps out a more aggressive use of military cyber capabilities. And it specifically calls out Russia and China for their use of cyberattacks.

China, it said, has been "persistently" stealing data from the public and private sector to gain an economic advantage. And it said Russia has use cyber information operations to "influence our population and challenge our diplomatic processes." U.S. officials have repeatedly accused Moscow of interfering in the 2016 elections, including through online social media.

"We will conduct cyberspace operations to collect intelligence and prepare military cyber capabilities to be used in the event of a crisis or conflict," the new strategy states, adding that the U.S. is prepared to use cyberwarfare along with other military weapons against its enemies when needed, including to counter malicious cyber activities targeting the country.

The document adds that the Pentagon will "work to strengthen the capacity" of allies and partners.

NATO has moved cautiously on offensive cyber capabilities. At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, allies recognized cyberspace as a warfighting domain. It has said that a computer-based attack on an ally would trigger NATO's commitment to defend its members. And last year the alliance agreed to create a new cyber operations center. But the focus has always been on defending NATO networks and those of its members, not offensive cyberwar.

Iraq tasks Shiite independent with forming new government

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's new president has tasked veteran Shiite politician Adel Abdul-Mahdi with forming a new government nearly five months after national elections were held, state TV reported late Tuesday.

Abdul-Mahdi is an independent who previously served as vice president, oil minister and finance minister. He is not allied with either of the two Shiite-led blocs that each claim to have the most support after May's elections, in which no party won an outright majority. He was previously a member of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, a large Shiite party with close ties to Iran.

He was tasked with forming a new government by Barham Salih, a Kurdish politician who was elected to the largely ceremonial role of president in a parliamentary vote earlier Tuesday.

Under an unofficial agreement dating back to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, Iraq's presidency—a largely ceremonial role—is held by a Kurd, while the prime minister is Shiite and the parliament speaker is Sunni.

The prime minister-designate will have 30 days to submit his cabinet to parliament. Iraq held elections May 12.

State TV said Salih, of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, won 220 votes out of the 273 lawmakers who attended Tuesday's session. He was among 20 candidates for the post, including one from the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party. The two parties have dominated Kurdish politics for decades.

Shiite lawmaker Hamid al-Moussawi said the lawmakers were supposed to vote Monday, but delayed the session for nearly 24 hours after the KDP and the PUK were unable to agree on a candidate. The parliament speaker eventually decided to hold a vote among all 20 nominees.

The KDP's nominee was Fuad Hussein, who served as chief of staff for the former Kurdish regional president Masoud Barzani.

Born in 1960 in the northern city of Sulaimaniyah, Salih joined the PUK in 1976 and later worked in its foreign relations department in London. He studied at Cardiff University and the University of Liverpool.

He held various posts in the Iraqi government after the 2003 invasion, including planning minister and deputy prime minister, and from 2009 to 2011 he served as prime minister of the Kurdish region.

Last year, he broke away from PUK following the death of the party's founder, Jalal Talabani, a former Iraqi president. Salih formed an opposition party, but returned to the PUK to be its nominee for president.

Focus

AP

This Friday, Sept. 28, 2018, photo shows the bathroom of a flat that will be available for short term rent in London. Hotel companies are getting into the business of home-sharing. Marriott has been testing this in London in partnership with a home-sharing company called Hostmaker.

Rooms with new views:

Hotels try their hand in home-sharing

AP

This Friday, Sept. 28, 2018, photo shows the living room of a flat that will be available for short term rent in London.

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Travelers sometimes want a cookie-cutter room in a downtown hotel, and they sometimes want a cozy Tuscan farmhouse to share with friends.

Hotels have always been good at providing the first one. Now, they're trying to figure out how to provide the second—and blunt the growth of competitors like Airbnb. But they're having mixed success.

Marriott said Tuesday it's expanding its six-month-old home-sharing pilot in London to three additional European cities. On the same day, Hyatt announced it was pulling out of a money-losing collaboration with luxury home-sharing company Oasis.

Analysts say hotels are wise to experiment. Airbnb now has 5 million listings on its site, up 25 percent from a year ago. By comparison, Marriott grew 5 percent last year to 1.3 million rooms. In some markets, like New York and Miami, studies indicate that home-sharing is already eroding hotel profits.

But it's not yet clear how far hotels are willing to expand into home-sharing, which challenges their traditional business models. It costs more to clean homes scattered in various neighborhoods than rooms at a central location, for example.

The barriers are so great that at least one major hotel company—Hilton—is giving home-sharing a pass for now. The company's CEO, Chris Nassetta, says the quality, consistency and amenities that Hilton customers expect are best provided in hotels.

Other hotel companies, like Marriott, say they can bring order and standards to the chaotic home-sharing market. Hotels promise perks they say Airbnb can't match: fully vetted properties, fluffy white towels and popular loyalty programs that let members use points to book homes.

"The lines are beginning to blur, and depending on what kind of trip it is, sometimes a home feels better than a hotel," said Jennifer Hsieh, Marriott's vice president of customer experience.

Marriott began testing home rentals in London in the spring. This week, it's expanding that pilot program—called Tribute Portfolio Homes—to Paris, Rome and Lisbon. Marriott says the program will now include 340 homes.

Hotels aren't necessarily luring different customers with their home-sharing options. Instead, they're finding that existing customers want more options, says Steve Caron, vice president and head of vacation rentals for Comfort Inn parent Choice Hotels, which has partnered with RedAwning, a company that oversees 20,000 rental properties.

Take Craig Sowerby, an author and freelance travel writer based in Barcelona, Spain. He's a Hyatt loyalty member and usually stays in hotels, but he decided to try an Oasis apartment for a one-month trip to Buenos Aires earlier this summer.

There were some hiccups. He had to pay upfront, months in advance, for the full $1,745 cost of his stay. He got fresh towels and sheets weekly, but there was no other cleaning. The WiFi didn't work.

On the plus side, he said, he earned credits toward his elite Hyatt status as well as points for future stays. The apartment was also far nicer than the Airbnb he subsequently rented in another part of Argentina. But he thinks it will be a challenge for hotel chains to deliver the same standard of service in shared homes.

"If the hotel chains end up simply offering a 'more expensive Airbnb,' then their potential market will be limited to those of us who are points or elite status obsessed," Sowerby said.

For its part, Hyatt invested $22 million in Oasis in 2017 but in the second quarter of this year, it wrote off its investment as a loss, saying regulatory hurdles in some cities were limiting Oasis's growth.

On Tuesday, vacation rental management company Vacasa bought Oasis and Hyatt ceased its affiliation, although Vacasa is honoring reservations that Hyatt members already made. In a statement, Hyatt said it recognizes that customer demand for alternative accommodations remains strong, and it may discuss a future tie-up with Vacasa.

Onefinestay—a luxury home rental company bought by AccorHotels in 2016—offers properties like a three-bedroom villa on Maui for $975 per night.

But AccorHotels took a similar $285 million charge in the second quarter, primarily due to losses at Onefinestay. AccorHotels also said it believes home-sharing needs to be part of its portfolio, but the business hasn't grown as planned.

Maggie Rauch, senior director of research at the travel consulting firm Phocuswright, says making home-sharing profitable will be a challenge for hotels.

"Does it make sense for Marriott to build a new Marriott around this flexible shared space? Is a hotel company going to buy a brownstone in Brooklyn?" she said.

For now, Marriott's exposure is limited. It partnered with Hostmaker—a U.K.-based home-sharing management company—which scouts homes and makes sure they meet Marriott's standards. Marriott only takes a cut for homes that are rented through the Tribute site.

But Hsieh said home-sharing does have some financial advantages. For example, Marriott has found that home-sharing customers are generally leisure travelers who stay twice as long as typical hotel customers.

Hotels can also charge more for entire homes. Tribute offers a three-bedroom home with a full kitchen, three bathrooms and a balcony in London's Kensington neighborhood for $956 per night plus a $129 cleaning fee. It's around the corner from the London Marriott Kensington, where a guest room with a bathroom and two queen beds costs $330 per night.

Nearby, Airbnb lists a three-bedroom apartment with a basement-level entrance for $782 per night plus a $169 cleaning fee and a $234 service fee.

As hotels continue to experiment, the pressure from home-sharing sites isn't going away. In fact, Airbnb is making hotel-like moves of its own.

In late September, it added rooms from 50 boutique hotels in Thailand to its platform through a partnership with a Thai hotel association. Last year, it bought Luxury Retreats, a high-end home-sharing site. And it's trying to standardize what guests can expect with a new designation called Airbnb Plus for properties that pass a quality inspection.

Chris Lehane, Airbnb's policy director, says Airbnb considers online travel agents like Expedia its main rivals, not big hotel companies. The need for accommodations is so vast that Airbnb and hotels will continue to coexist, he says, but Airbnb will do better at providing unique places.

But hotels aren't giving up yet. Daniel Mount, an associate professor of hospitality at Pennsylvania State University, says they should continue to dabble in home-sharing even if it doesn't promise big profits.

"I don't think five years from now, hotels want to look back and say, 'Wow, we should have done that five years ago,'" Mount said.

Environment

Experts say Trump's EPA moving to loosen radiation limits

AP

In this Jan. 9, 2013, file photo, a CT scan technician prepares for a patient at the Silver Cross Emergency Care Center in Homer Glen, Ill. The Trump administration is quietly trying to weaken radiation rules, relying on scientific outliers who argue that a little radiation damage is actually good for you _ like a little bit of sunlight.

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The EPA is pursuing rule changes that experts say would weaken the way radiation exposure is regulated, turning to scientific outliers who argue that a bit of radiation damage is actually good for you—like a little bit of sunlight.

The government's current, decades-old guidance says that any exposure to harmful radiation is a cancer risk. And critics say the proposed change could lead to higher levels of exposure for workers at nuclear installations and oil and gas drilling sites, medical workers doing X-rays and CT scans, people living next to Superfund sites and any members of the public who one day might find themselves exposed to a radiation release.

The Trump administration already has targeted a range of other regulations on toxins and pollutants, including coal power plant emissions and car exhaust, that it sees as costly and burdensome for businesses. Supporters of the EPA's proposal argue the government's current model that there is no safe level of radiation—the so-called linear no-threshold model—forces unnecessary spending for handling exposure in accidents, at nuclear plants, in medical centers and at other sites.

At issue is Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule on transparency in science.

EPA spokesman John Konkus said Tuesday: "The proposed regulation doesn't talk about radiation or any particular chemicals. And as we indicated in our response, EPA's policy is to continue to use the linear-no-threshold model for population-level radiation protection purposes which would not, under the proposed regulation that has not been finalized, trigger any change in that policy."

But in an April news release announcing the proposed rule the agency quoted Edward Calabrese, a toxicologist at the University of Massachusetts who has said weakening limits on radiation exposure would save billions of dollars and have a positive impact on human health.

The proposed rule would require regulators to consider "various threshold models across the exposure range" when it comes to dangerous substances. While it doesn't specify radiation, the release quotes Calabrese calling the proposal "a major scientific step forward" in assessing the risk of "chemicals and radiation."

Konkus said the release was written during the tenure of former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. He could not explain why Calabrese was quoted citing the impact on radiation levels if the agency does not believe there would be any.

Calabrese was to be the lead witness at a congressional hearing Wednesday on the EPA proposal.

Radiation is everywhere, from potassium in bananas to the microwaves popping our popcorn. Most of it is benign. But what's of concern is the higher-energy, shorter-wave radiation, like X-rays, that can penetrate and disrupt living cells, sometimes causing cancer.

As recently as this March, the EPA's online guidelines for radiation effects advised: "Current science suggests there is some cancer risk from any exposure to radiation."

"Even exposures below 100 millisieverts"—an amount roughly equivalent to 25 chest X-rays or about 14 CT chest scans—"slightly increase the risk of getting cancer in the future," the agency's guidance said.

But that online guidance—separate from the rule-change proposal—was edited in July to add a section emphasizing the low individual odds of cancer: "According to radiation safety experts, radiation exposures of ... 100 millisieverts usually result in no harmful health effects, because radiation below these levels is a minor contributor to our overall cancer risk," the revised policy says.

Calabrese and his supporters argue that smaller exposures of cell-damaging radiation and other carcinogens can serve as stressors that activate the body's repair mechanisms and can make people healthier. They compare it to physical exercise or sunlight.

Mainstream scientific consensus on radiation is based on deceptive science, says Calabrese, who argued in a 2014 essay for "righting the past deceptions and correcting the ongoing errors in environmental regulation."

EPA spokesman Konkus said in an email that the proposed rule change is about "increasing transparency on assumptions" about how the body responds to different doses of dangerous substances and that the agency "acknowledges uncertainty regarding health effects at low doses" and supports more research on that.

The radiation regulation is supported by Steven Milloy, a Trump transition team member for the EPA who is known for challenging widely accepted ideas about manmade climate change and the health risks of tobacco. He has been promoting Calabrese's theory of healthy radiation on his blog.

But Jan Beyea, a physicist whose work includes research with the National Academies of Science on the 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant accident, said the EPA science proposal represents voices "generally dismissed by the great bulk of scientists."

The EPA proposal would lead to "increases in chemical and radiation exposures in the workplace, home and outdoor environment, including the vicinity of Superfund sites," Beyea wrote.

At the level the EPA website talks about, any one person's risk of cancer from radiation exposure is perhaps 1 percent, Beyea said.

"The individual risk will likely be low, but not the cumulative social risk," Beyea said.

"If they even look at that—no, no, no," said Terrie Barrie, a resident of Craig, Colorado, and an advocate for her husband and other workers at the now-closed Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons plant, where the U.S. government is compensating certain cancer victims regardless of their history of exposure.

"There's no reason not to protect people as much as possible," said Barrie.

U.S. agencies for decades have followed a policy that there is no threshold of radiation exposure that is risk-free.

The National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements reaffirmed that principle this year after a review of 29 public health studies on cancer rates among people exposed to low-dose radiation, via the U.S. atomic bombing of Japan in World War II, leak-prone Soviet nuclear installations, medical treatments and other sources.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

†Asuncion Pangelinan Mendiola

Lovingly known as "CONNIE"

give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of his embrace.

We wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you have shown us during our greatest time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comforting words, unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and lessen our pain. We would like to acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us, and we will forever remember you.

To Pale Isaac Ayuyu, St. Jude Thaddaeus Choir, Borja Funeral Home and countless others, we can't Thank you enough for your generosity to us during this painful time.

Man sen magof ham para in ekstende un sinceru yan dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase pot I tinayuyot yan finatton-miyu ginen I diuranten I piniten mami. In sen agradesi todus hamyu yan talu un dangkulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen i familian i difunta as †Asuncion Pangelinan Mendiola.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase,

From the children of late †Aurelio T. and †Asuncion P. Mendiola

Life & Style

A year after Weinstein, Hollywood is still soul-searching

AP

In this May 12, 2018 file photo, 82 film industry professionals stand on the steps of the Palais des Festivals to represent, what they describe as pervasive gender inequality in the film industry, at the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France.

A year after Weinstein, Hollywood is still soul-searching

NEW YORK (AP)—After Rashida Jones exited Pixar's "Toy Story 4" in 2017 she noted that the studio, after 25 years in business, had not made a single feature film directed by a woman, calling it "a culture where women and people of color do not have an equal creative voice."

So when Pixar co-founder and CEO John Lasseter stepped down earlier this year after acknowledging "missteps" in his behavior with employees, he was more than another casualty in the long list of film industry power players toppled by the #MeToo movement. He was a symbol of a Hollywood culture that is dying—or at least under siege.

"These giant, multi-billion-dollar companies, they all need a makeover," Jones now says. "And I think people are starting to recognize that. To me, that is a victory. Brave people have come forward and made this whole machine start to question itself."

In the year since sexual assault allegations surfaced against Harvey Weinstein, Hollywood has been soul-searching. The Weinstein case—along with those of Kevin Spacey, CBS' Les Moonves, Amazon Studios' Roy Price and many others—laid bare the painful reality for countless women in a movie industry where gender inequality was systematic and pervasive.

The #MeToo movement has gone far beyond the movies, but Hollywood remains ground zero in a cultural eruption that began 12 months ago with the Weinstein revelations, published by The New York Times and The New Yorker. Through interviews with actresses, filmmakers, producers and others, The Associated Press sought to assess whether it is a palpably different place today than a year ago.

"Definitely there's been a seismic shift," says Carey Mulligan, the British actress. "I feel like if I was walking down the street and someone said something or did something outside the bounds of appropriate, I would feel so much more empowered to tell them to f--- off while before I probably wouldn't. Those sort of gray area things are now no longer gray areas."

Mulligan, who played an early 20th century women's rights activist in 2015's "Suffragette" and has herself been vocal about Hollywood's pay gap, says that in every job she's had for the last year, there's been a well-known code of conduct on set. She's optimistic that more change is coming.

Researchers at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative have not yet found any marked difference in female representation on screen, behind the camera or in the boardroom. More data after the end of the year will give a clearer picture of 2018, but the previous 20 years have shown almost zero change. At least anecdotally, studios and production companies are more aggressively hunting for female filmmakers. Salma Hayek has said her production company has been struggling to find female writers and directors. They're all already booked.

Whirlwind year lets Michelle Williams realize her own worth

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michelle Williams can't believe it's been less than a year since "the pay stuff." Time has seemingly accelerated since last October when, while shooting the comic book movie "Venom," the unimaginable began to happen: Titans of her industry started to fall under #MeToo. Then months later, after reshoots for "All the Money in the World," which were hurriedly completed to remove scenes featuring one of the accused, Kevin Spacey, Williams became the center of a very public controversy over a vast pay discrepancy between herself and her co-star Mark Wahlberg. She was paid less than $1,000. He got $1.5 million.

It's also a year in which she married musician Phil Elverum, and started making some atypical career choices for a four-time Oscar nominee who has in her adulthood always veered toward art house films of directors like Kelly Reichardt and away from the commercial, from big budgets and from comic book films like the one she's currently promoting.

Williams

During a promotional day for her latest film, "Venom," Williams cranes her neck performativity to look at the somewhat grotesque poster behind her, half of which is star Tom Hardy's face, and the other half is the tar-like people-eating alien "symbiote" that he becomes. "Nope," she says. "Doesn't seem like me!"

But Williams is finding that she's ready to take some chances and to bet on herself.

"I'm recognizing my own strength and my own worth," she said. "I'm 38 and it's just happening."

Plus she wanted to work with Hardy.

"She's one of the best actors out there working today," said "Venom" director Ruben Fleischer. He worried that she wouldn't want to do it, but Williams said she was only flattered by the offer.

"It's not like people are always asking me to be in these kinds of movies," Williams said. "I thought it would be fun to try something on a larger scale and to see if I can relax."

Venom is a character in the Spider-Man comics, and the $100 million film, out Friday, is a part of Sony Pictures' efforts to create an extended Spider-Man Universe with the Marvel characters they license. (Spidey does not appear in "Venom.")

Williams plays Anne Weying, the ex-fiance of Hardy's Eddie Brock. She was able to make the character her own, from the business-like costumes (some of which she shopped for herself) down to the dialogue.

"There were certain lines that I felt were too passive or sweet. I wanted to make sure that she could stand her ground," Williams said, citing the Howard Hawks classic "His Girl Friday" as inspiration for the equal dynamic she wanted to convey. "I wanted it to be unmistakable that it was made in a #MeToo era. I said, 'I know that you guys won't let me wear a #MeToo t-shirt, but that's the vibe that I want.'"

The #MeToo moment, and the pay debacle has made Williams reflect on her career and experiences up to this point and what it might mean for her 12-year-old daughter, Matilda Ledger.

"It was really tough when I was younger. You do get put in these situations with all of these men. You're always talking to men, being photographed by men. And I didn't know that I had another choice. I didn't know that I could say no. I didn't know I could say stop. I just didn't grow up with any of that language. And I never thought that it would change. I just thought that I would have to teach my daughter the language," Williams said. "Now, in America, I feel like our daughters are going to grow up with a different understanding of what's possible, what they're entitled to. My daughter knows that she can say whatever she wants. But I didn't."

4 arrested in connection with LA celebrity burglaries

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four people have been arrested in connection with a series of burglaries that targeted the homes of celebrities, including Rihanna, Christina Milian, Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig and Rams wide receiver Robert Woods, police said Tuesday.

The suspects were believed to be part of a larger burglary ring targeting actors, athletes and Hollywood producers, police said at a news conference. Police displayed seized items believed to have been stolen—including expensive purses, handbags, watches and jewelry—in the hopes that the victims could identify them.

Police last weekend also seized $50,000 in cash.

The ring may have been responsible for about two dozen burglaries and taken property worth millions of dollars, said Lillian Carranza, commanding officer of the LAPD's Commercial Crimes Division.

More arrests were expected, she said.

The victims were chosen based on social media postings and tour and travel schedules that indicated they would be away from home, Carranza said.

Woods, for example, had his Woodland Hills home hit on Thursday while he was playing against the Minnesota Vikings at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Rihanna, Milian and Puig also had their homes burgled in recent months, Carranza said.

In the home of one suspect, police seized a list containing a dozen other targets, including LeBron James and actors Viola Davis and Matt Damon, along with their addresses, Carranza said.

The thieves, believed to be gang members and their associates, called their operation "flocking" because "they flocked like birds to areas where the rich and famous were sited," Carranza said.

The crooks would wear button-down shirts and drive luxury cars to fit in as they scouted the neighborhood and then changed into casual clothing, including hoodies, before hitting homes, Carranza said.

After knocking on the door to make sure nobody was home, the thieves would break in through a door or window and clean out the master bedroom, stealing cash, weapons, watches and other items in a matter of minutes—often before the alarm company could notify police, Carranza said.

China orders actress Fan Bingbing to pay massive tax fine

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese media say tax authorities have ordered X-Men star Fan Bingbing to pay taxes and fines worth hundreds of millions of yuan but would spare her from criminal prosecution.

In this May 24, 2017, file photo, Fan Bingbing poses for photographers as she arrives for the screening of the film The Beguiled at the 70th international film festival, Cannes, southern France. AP

The official Xinhua News Agency's announcement Wednesday ended months of speculation over the fate of the actress since she disappeared from public view in June amid reports she was being investigated for tax fraud.

The report gave no indication as to Fan's whereabouts but indicated her agent was being held by police for allegedly obstructing the investigation.

Xinhua cited tax authorities as saying Fan would not be held criminally accountable as long as she paid the fines and taxes on time.

The report described unpaid taxes, fines and late fees amounting to nearly 900 million yuan or over $130 million.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Garrison Keillor's Vermont appearance cancelled after outcry

BURLINGTON, Vt. (AP)—An appearance by Garrison Keillor, former host of "A Prairie Home Companion," at a Vermont book festival has been canceled after public outcry. Burlington Book Festival Founding Director Rick Kisonak confirmed to Vermont Public Radio that the Oct. 14 fundraising event would not take place. Festival organizers have faced criticism over the scheduled appearance of the 76-year-old public radio personality accused of sexual harassment. Last November, Minnesota Public Radio severed ties with Keillor over the accusations. Keillor has denied the allegations. Festival founding director Rick Kisonak wrote in an email that "the unexpected reaction on social media made it apparent some people viewed his booking as our condoning of sexual harassment." He says "nothing could be further from the truth."

Poet laureate Tracy K. Smith launching podcast-radio show

NEW YORK (AP)—The country's poet laureate, Tracy K. Smith, is launching a weekly podcast and radio program called "The Slowdown." Smith said in a statement Tuesday that she wanted to inspire listeners to "make a daily space for poetry" in a world dominated by breaking news events. "The Slowdown" will begin on podcast platforms on November 26 and will be offered to public radio stations in January 2019. Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, will read works by other writers and will explore the role of poetry in the contemporary world. Her other projects include "American Conversations: Celebrating Poems in Rural Communities," for which she has traveled around the country. "The Slowdown" is being funded by the Chicago-based Poetry Foundation. It's also receiving support from the Library of Congress Poetry and Literature Center.

China's music streaming leader Tencent to go public in US

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The owner of China's largest music streaming services is looking to strike it rich in the U.S. stock market. Tencent Music Entertainment plans to sell its stock in the U.S. as part of an initial public offering. The IPO documents filed Tuesday propose raising $1 billion, but that preliminary figure often ends up being substantially higher. Investor demand is likely to be high, given the rising popularity of music streaming and Tencent's success so far. Tencent says its services have more than 800 million users, including 23.3 million subscribers who pay to listen to its music library. It's also profitable, having earned $199 million on revenue of $1.66 billion last year. Tencent's major shareholders include the leading music streaming service Spotify, which went public earlier this year.

Times says it was wrong to have writer on Kavanaugh story

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Times said Tuesday that it should not have assigned a writer who criticized Brett Kavanaugh on social media to its news story about the Supreme Court nominee's alleged involvement in a bar fight in 1985.

The newspaper said that it stood by its story, published Monday, which said Kavanaugh was questioned by police in New Haven, Connecticut, after he was accused of throwing ice at another bar patron. Kavanaugh, who was not arrested, was attending Yale University.

The White House had questioned the Times' motivation in writing the story because one of its authors, Emily Bazelon, criticized Kavanaugh in July after he was nominated to the court by President Donald Trump.

Bazelon is an instructor at the Yale Law School and a writer for the Times' magazine. She also writes occasional opinion pieces for the newspaper. She shared a byline on the Kavanaugh story with Ben Protess.

"She is not a news reporter," said Times' spokeswoman Eileen Murphy. "Her role in this story was to help colleagues in the newsroom gather public documents in New Haven, where Emily is based. In retrospect, editors should have used a newsroom reporter for that assignment."

In a July tweet, Bazelon wrote that as a Yale Law graduate and lecturer, "I strongly disassociate myself from tonight's praise of Brett Kavanaugh. With respect, he's a 5th vote for a hard-right turn on voting rights and so much more that will harm the democratic process & prevent a more equal society."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders made note of Bazelon's comment in a tweet of her own, tying it to what she called a desperate Democratic attack on Kavanaugh.

John Mayer, SZA, Chance to perform at benefit for Mac Miller

NEW YORK (AP)—Chance the Rapper, John Mayer and SZA are set to perform at a benefit concert for the late rapper Mac Miller.

Live Nation announced Tuesday that Travis Scott, Miguel and Ty Dolla $ign will also perform at the "Mac Miller: A Celebration of Life" concert on October 31 at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles.

Tickets go on sale Friday. The concert will benefit the Mac Miller Circles Fund.

Paramedics found the 26-year-old Miller unresponsive in his home last month and declared him dead soon after. An autopsy has been performed, but no cause of death has been announced.

Karen Meyers, Miller's mother, said in a statement: "The support we've experienced is evident in this amazing lineup and is a testament to Malcolm's incredible life."

Other performers include ScHoolboy Q, Anderson .Paak, Earl Sweatshirt, Vince Staples and Action Bronson.

Taylor Swift will open the 2018 American Music Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift will open the 2018 American Music Awards.

The 28-year-old singer made the announcement Tuesday. This is her first awards show performance in nearly three years.

Dick Clark Productions says Swift will sing "I Did Something Bad" from her "Reputation" album.

Swift is competing for Artist of the Year at the 2018 AMAs alongside Drake, Ed Sheeran, Imagine Dragons and Post Malone.

Rap is dominating this year's awards. Drake and Cardi B have eight nominations each.

Sheeran and Malone each earned six nominations, while Camila Cabello is up for five awards.

The fan-voted AMAs will air live Oct. 9 on ABC from the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

Couple looking to the future differs on starting a family

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a strong relationship with my girlfriend for five years. We are very much in love.

I have told her I don't want to get married and have kids until I have attained some level of success. She understands my desire to be a good provider, but she's 29 and worried about her biological clock if she waits much longer.

I work full time, take night classes and I'm trying to put myself on a promising career path. Is my request unreasonable? We want it to work, but being able to provide at least a middle-class lifestyle is very important to me.

AMBITIOUS GUY IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR AMBITIOUS: It would be wonderful if there was a blueprint for success in life and marriage, but too often, "life" intervenes. You and your girlfriend should have a serious discussion about the future, because you both have to be comfortable with what happens next.

If she wants to start a family right away and you feel you can't afford it, neither of you will be happy. If she's willing to wait another few years to start a family (her biological clock should still be ticking, or she could freeze her eggs), then it's important you agree about what needs to be in place financially in order for that to happen.

DEAR ABBY: My parents like to visit us and bring along their little dog, "Truffle." We are happy to have them and their dog, however we have an issue. My parents allow Truffle on the furniture. We have a dog and love her to pieces, but feel that furniture is for humans. Because our family likes to relax by sprawling on the couch at times, it's not as pleasant once a pet has been lying there.

My husband has voiced this concern but has been ignored. We are going to visit my parents soon, and I'm wondering how to handle this. We love everyone and don't want to hurt their feelings. I appreciate your advice.

OFF THE COUCH IN COLORADO

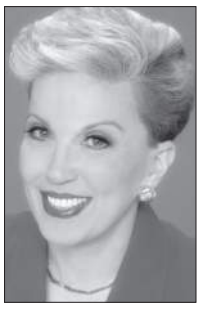
DEAR OFF THE COUCH: If you and your husband prefer that animals stay off the furniture in your home, that's your privilege. In your home, your rules should be respected. If your parents choose to ignore your request, they should stay in a pet-friendly hotel or leave Truffle at home.

HOWEVER, when you visit in their home, their rules should apply. And if your husband doesn't want to sit or lie on their couch because of the animal hair or the odor, he should sit on a dining chair that can be wiped down, take a washable cover to throw on the couch or stay home.

DEAR ABBY: I've had an online friend for three years. We met on a dating/flirt app in high school and recently met in person. We aren't currently dating, but it's inevitable at this point.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

He's funny, down-to-earth and good-looking as hell! What he doesn't know is that prior to meeting him, I had a relationship with a woman, and I think I'm in love with her. I broke things off with her, but now I miss her more and more. I want to reach out to her, but I want him and me to get closer as well. What should I do?

GIRL WITH OPTIONS IN MAINE

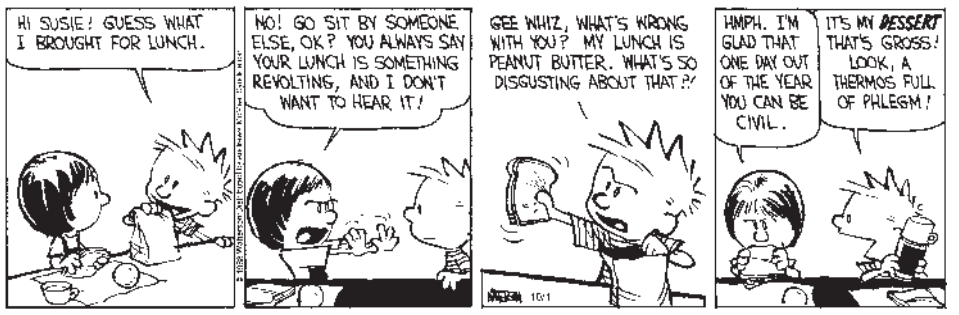
DEAR G.W.O.: What you should do is be honest with both of them and let the scenario play out naturally.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

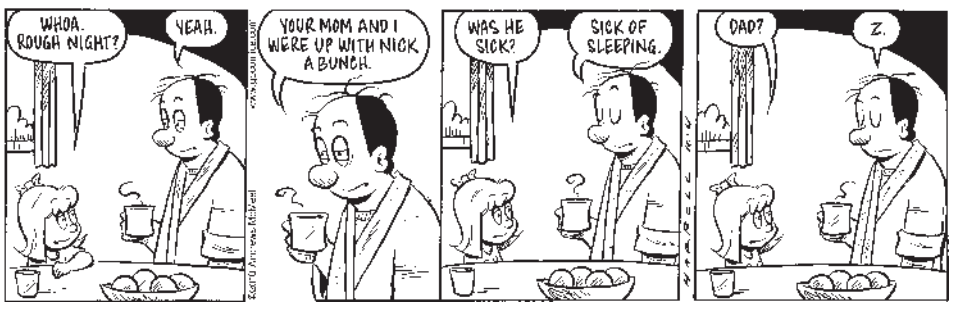

HI SUSIE! GUESS WHAT I BROUGHT FOR LUNCH.
NO! GO SIT BY SOMEONE ELSE, OK? YOU ALWAYS SAY YOUR LUNCH IS SOMETHING REVOLTING, AND I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!
GEE WHIZ, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? MY LUNCH IS PEANUT BUTTER. WHAT'S SO DISGUSTING ABOUT THAT?!
HMPH. I'M GLAD THAT ONE DAY OUT OF THE YEAR YOU CAN BE CIVIL.
IT'S MY DESSERT THAT'S GROSS! LOOK, A THERMOS FULL OF PHLEGM!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE LONGEST COMMERCIAL BREAK EVER!
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU... I GOT TIRED OF WAITING FOR ADS TO END...
SO I SUBSCRIBED TO THE "ALL-COMMERCIAL CHANNEL"

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Designer Chanel
5 Now, on a memo
9 Prune
12 Modern taxi alternative
13 1003, in old Rome
14 Praise in verse
15 Warblers
17 Pledge
18 Loud firework
19 Mike of "Shrek"
21 Rejection
22 Arctic sheets
24 Slapstick arsenal
27 Spring month
28 Vatican VIP
31 Adj. modifier
32 Ornate vase
33 Rebel Turner
34 Low digits
36 Superman foe Luthor
37 Taj Mahal city
38 Frasier's brother
40 Ave. crosser
41 Trattoria offering
43 Agee of the Miracle Mets
47 I love (Lat.)
48 Glee club handouts
51 Part of some German names
52 Voice in an iPhone
53 Dance move
54 Heart chart (Abbr.)
55 Norwegian saint
56 Lighter — air

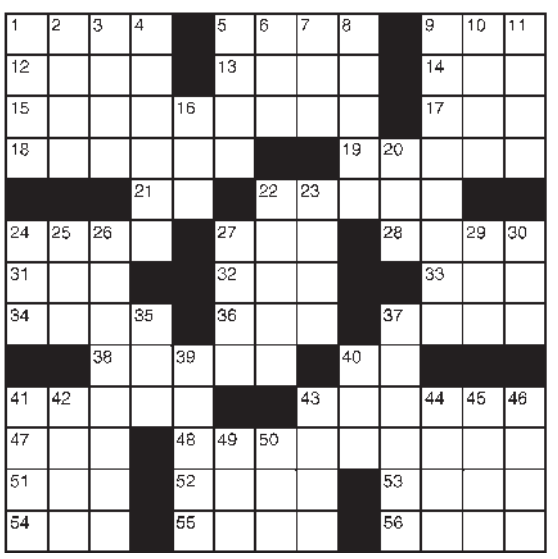
DOWN

1 Point
2 Reed instrument
3 Penny
4 Church keyboards
5 During
6 Army address
7 Help
8 — Beach, California
9 Serenade, often
10 Scent
11 Church furniture
16 Buddy
20 "Uh-huh"
22 Taxi costs
23 Bobcat cousin
24 Bit of butter
25 Altar promise
26 Vespers
27 Stubborn beast
29 Standard
30 JFK info
35 Command to Rover
37 Tops
39 Rodeo rope
40 Cry
41 Macadamize
42 Out of control
43 End-of-wk. cry
44 Closet invader
45 Furniture brand
46 "NFL Live" channel
49 Squeak stopper
50 Gun lobby org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	I	A	■	G	I	L	■	A	C	R	E
B	O	R	N	■	L	S	U	■	S	L	I	T
C	O	O	K	B	O	O	K	■	P	A	P	A
S	T	Y	L	U	S	■	A	N	I	M	A	L
■	■	■	E	D	S	■	S	E	R	B	■	■
P	A	C	■	D	E	B	■	W	E	A	R	Y
O	L	A	F	■	S	U	P	■	S	K	I	D
T	F	S	I	A	■	B	C	T	■	F	T	S
■	■	I	A	R	I	■	R	O	T	■	■	■
C	O	B	L	R	N	■	T	R	J	C	E	S
O	R	A	N	■	C	O	R	N	B	A	_	L
B	E	R	T	■	A	N	A	■	E	S	S	O
B	O	S	S	■	S	O	Y	■	S	T	A	G

Yesterday's answer 10-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Silverstone, 42; Liev Schreiber, 51; Christoph Waltz, 62; Susan Sarandon, 72.

Happy Birthday: Put more into home, family and getting ahead. Refuse to let setbacks of the past hold you back. Use your ingenuity, strength and courage to bring about positive changes that will improve your life on all fronts. Share your thoughts and create a stir about your future plans; you will be given the green light to chase your dreams. Your numbers are 8, 11, 21, 23, 32, 34, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Mix and mingle. It will do you good to get someone else's perspective on what's happening. Listen and offer an objective point of view to gain the most knowledge. An unusual prospect will give you something to think about. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll be up against someone who is inconsistent and who tends to make a mountain out of a molehill. Ease into conversations and source out what's behind the comments being made. Don't let someone's emotional tactics mislead you. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Stick close to home in order to control situations that have the potential to veer out of control. Know what and who you are dealing with. Use your knowledge and intelligence to keep the peace. Don't neglect your chores. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take note of what others are doing and contributing. Offering praise will help develop a strong relationship with someone who can help defend you when faced with opposition. Learn by engaging with people from different backgrounds. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Someone will cause a fuss or provoke you to make one. A steady pace forward and a positive attitude will help you ward off controversy that will put a dent in your time and ability to achieve what you set out to do. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Pick up the pace and keep going until you reach your destination. Surround yourself with interesting people who inspire and motivate you. A change in the company you keep or the places you congregate will result in new possibilities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't give in to anyone muscling into your affairs. The less transparent you are, the better the outcome. Stick to what you know, and finish what you start. It's what you leave undone that will come back to haunt you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Stay in the background and observe. The way others carry on will be a telltale sign of the way they will treat you if you let them get to know you better. Play it safe and you won't be sorry. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take care of personal business. Get your finances in order and any paperwork that needs updating signed, sealed and delivered. How you conduct your business will be what others notice. New prospects will come your way based on your actions. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Hold on to your thoughts. Sharing with someone who tends to be a blabbermouth will cost you emotionally. Look at the big picture and you'll know exactly what you have to do in order to bring about positive change. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't get angry with someone for taking advantage of you; get angry with yourself for falling for his or her devious ways. Protect against those asking for too much or trying to tempt you into something that isn't right for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A closer look at what others are doing will give you an idea how to handle a situation you face. Turn a negative into a positive by using someone or something from your past to negotiate your way to victory. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dynamic, adaptable and sensitive. You are smart and trendy.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5			6	
1			4	2		
	3	4		2	5	
	9	6		8		1
4				1	6	3
		2	4		8	9
		1	7			2
	7			8		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	8	1	7	4	6	9	2	5
7	5	6	2	9	1	4	3	8
4	9	2	3	8	5	1	6	7
9	7	8	6	1	4	2	5	3
1	2	3	5	7	8	6	9	4
5	6	4	9	2	3	8	7	1
8	3	7	1	6	2	5	4	9
2	1	5	4	3	9	7	8	6
6	4	9	8	5	7	3	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ADDING WHIPPING CREAM — Solution: 8 letters

A	O	C	O	C	A	E	S	E	I	R	R	E	B	N
R	Y	O	R	T	F	W	A	F	F	L	E	S	O	O
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Notice is hereby given that SEA TIMES CO. LTD., a corporation established and operating in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is now officially close effective September 1, 2018. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

Sea Times Co. Ltd
PMB 95 Box 10001,
Saipan MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time
required by law will forever be barred.

/s/ Yayushi Shino
President for Sea Times Co., Ltd.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION
by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IX

Public Notice Date: September 25, 2018
Comment Period Closes: October 31, 2018
The U.S. EPA (USEPA) is issuing a notice of proposed action under the Clean Water Act. The USEPA is proposing to issue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal (No. MP0020371) to Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc. for the Managaha Island wastewater treatment facility located near Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

The facility serves a daily tourist population averaging 1,400, receiving only domestic sewage with a design flow of 0.005 million gallons per day (MGD). The treatment plant is a small-scale Johkasou package plant which consists of influent flow equalization-denitrification, membrane separation aerated activated sludge with flocculation, settling and disinfection. The plant provides secondary treatment. Sludge is thickened and stored for disposal at the Marpi Solid Waste Landfill, or for hauling off-site by boat to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Sadog Tasi WWTP (NPDES Permit No. MP0020010). Treated effluent is discharged to a nearby leach field distribution box located 150 feet inward of the north shoreline of Managaha Island and flows into the groundwater in an aquifer matrix comprised of beach sand with a direct hydrological connection to nearby Class A marine waters by the Tanapag Harbor of Saipan. Class AA coastal and oceanic waters are protected for their natural pristine state as nearly as possible with an absolute minimum of pollution or alteration of water quality from any human-related source or actions. Other uses to be protected are the support and propagation of shellfish and other marine life, conservation of coral reefs and wilderness areas, oceanographic research, and aesthetic enjoyment and compatible recreation with risk of water ingestion by humans.

EPA is soliciting comments on the proposal. EPA will consider all comments received during comment period before taking final action. To submit comments, or to obtain additional information including the proposed permit and administrative records, please contact:

Linh Tran, (415) 972-3511; email: Tran.Linh@epamail.epa.gov
EPA Region IX (WTR-2-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Website:
https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/public-notices-meetings-and-events-pacific-southwest
***Please bring the foregoing notice to the attention of all persons who would be interested in this matter. ***

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- Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Engineering or related fields.
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Title: Cost Engineer

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- Proficient in English and Chinese.
- Bachelor's degree in Engineering or related fields.
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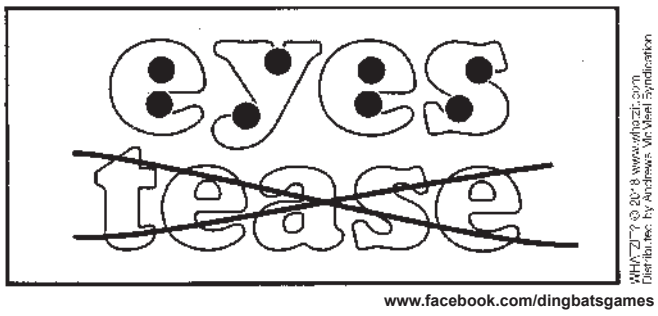

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Rams remain unanimous top team in poll

NEW YORK (AP)—The Rams have turned the opening quarter of the NFL's regular season into their own version of "La La Land."

The Rams have gotten off to a dominant start. They are 4-0 and have outscored their opponents by a league-leading combined 73 points so far this season and have the NFL's most potent offense, averaging 468.5 yards a game.

All of that adds up to the Rams repeating as the unanimous top team in the latest AP Pro32 poll .

For the second consecutive week, the Rams received all 12 first-place votes and 384 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Rams leave Hollywood, heading out on the road for the next three weeks, as they look to stay perfect.

"The Rams are 4-0 for the first time since 2001, which is fitting, because (coach) Sean McVay and (quarterback) Jared Goff are putting on their own great offensive show," said Jenny Vrentas of The Monday Morning Quarterback.

The Kansas City Chiefs, who overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to top the Denver Broncos 27-23 on Monday night, remained at No. 2.

"Patrick Mahomes does things every week that leave you awe-inspired," Newsday's Bob Glauber said. "A modern-day Brett Favre, Mahomes brought back the Chiefs against the Broncos with some of the best playmaking you'll ever see from an NFL quarterback."

AP

Los Angeles Rams defensive back Sam Shields, left, breaks up a pass intended for Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs during the first half in an NFL football game Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018, in Los Angeles.

The Jacksonville Jaguars inched up a spot to No. 3 after routing the New York Jets 31-12. The Jaguars face the Chiefs on Sunday in the top matchup of Week 5.

Running back Leonard Fournette might not play for the Jaguars because of a hamstring injury. He already has missed 2½ games with the injury.

"Worries about Fournette's hammy," Fox Sports' John Czarnecki said.

The New Orleans Saints also moved up a spot to No. 4 after beating the New York Giants 33-18 and will close out the week against another NFC East opponent when they host Washington on Monday night.

"As Drew Brees closes in on the NFL record book, the Saints are rolling since that Week 1 shocker against Tampa Bay," said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida.

The Baltimore Ravens and Cincinnati Bengals, tied atop the AFC North at 3-1, both made major moves in the poll. The Ravens jumped four spots to No. 5 after topping the rival Pittsburgh Steelers 26-14 on Sunday night. The Bengals climbed six spots to No. 6 after rallying past the Atlanta Falcons 37-36 on Andy Dalton's TD pass to A.J. Green with 7 seconds remaining.

The New England Patriots moved up three spots to No. 7 after pounding the AFC East rival Miami Dolphins 38-7. The Patriots (2-2) are the highest-ranked team with a .500 record.

They will open Week 5 on Thursday night, when they host Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts.

The AFC East-leading Dolphins (3-1) plummeted nine spots to No. 15 and are the lowest-ranked team with a winning record.

The Chicago Bears moved up eight spots to No. 8 after dominating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 48-10 as Mitchell Trubisky threw six touchdown passes. The NFC North-leading Bears have a bye this week before facing Miami on Oct. 14.

"Not only are the Bears good now," said Alex Marvez of The Sporting News. "The best is yet to come with Mitch Trubisky."

The Carolina Panthers, who are coming off their bye week, slipped two spots to No. 9. They will host the Giants on Sunday.

The Tennessee Titans (3-1), who share first place in the AFC South with the Jaguars, jumped up five spots to round out the top 10

Real Madrid on historic goalless run in 12 years

MOSCOW (AP)—Not since the days of David Beckham has Real Madrid gone so long without scoring.

Tuesday's 1-0 loss to CSKA Moscow in the Champions League was the Spanish giant's third game without a goal — its worst run since the 2006-07 season.

Back then, Ruud van Nistelrooy scored to get Real out of its slump. This time around, Madrid coach Julen Lopetegui says he's keeping faith in Karim Benzema, who hasn't scored in six games.

"It's not just a problem for Benzema but for all the attacking players," Lopetegui said through a translator. "We need to keep creating chances, that's all we can do. I'm sure that sooner or later we'll start scoring, with this level of dedication."

Madrid hit the woodwork three times against a Russian team which went — and stayed—ahead through Nikola Vlasic's goal in the second minute on a frustrating night for the reigning European champion.

Madrid lost 3-0 at Sevilla on Wednesday in the Spanish league and drew 0-0 in Saturday's Madrid derby against Atletico.

"Playing at home, the early goal was the ideal situation for CSKA but we couldn't use our chances," Lopetegui said.

With Sergio Ramos rested, the reigning European champion's defense seemed disjointed and it conceded early when Vlasic intercepted a pass from Toni Kroos and struck the ball low past Keylor Navas.

Madrid slowly found its way into the game but had to contend with a tightly packed CSKA defense. Casemiro hit the post in the 28th minute with a speculative shot, Benzema headed onto the bar in the 40th, and Mariano Diaz headed onto the post late on.

Even with nearly 70 percent possession and Luka Modric introduced off the bench, Real couldn't break down CSKA and offered the Russian team chances on the counterattack.

The game ended in particularly frustrating style for Madrid as repeated headers from Diaz missed the target. Deep into stoppage time, CSKA goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was sent off after collecting two quick yellow cards in a dispute with the referee. It came too late for Real.

Akinfeev and right-back Mario Fernandes celebrated their second surprise win over Spanish opposition in three months after being part of the Russia side which beat Spain on penalties at the same stadium during the World Cup.

When Dani Carvajal limped off just before halftime, Madrid seemed set to add to an injury list which already contains Gareth Bale, Marcelo and Isco.

"It's a muscle injury but we need to wait for the results of the analysis," Lopetegui said.

Meanwhile, Ronaldo, who joined Juventus from Madrid in a deal worth 112 million euros ($131.5 million) this offseason, was missing for the Italian champions for their match against Young Boys after his sending-off against Valencia in the opening round of group play.

Paulo Dybala stepped up in the Portuguese star's absence by scoring a hat trick in a 3-0 win to put Juventus top of its group.

Another of Ronaldo's former clubs is struggling, too. Manchester United's bus got stuck in traffic—leading to a delayed kickoff against Valencia—and the team never got going on the field either in a dull 0-0 draw at Old Trafford.

The stalemate comes after a week when United lost at home to second-tier opposition in an English League Cup game and to West Ham in the Premier League.

Column: Reed's passion for Ryder Cup turns poisonous

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP)—What the Americans need is a Ryder Cup team filled with guys like Patrick Reed.

As long as Patrick Reed isn't one of them.

Three days on Le Golf National went bad enough for a powerful U.S. team that lost its way off the tee and on the scoreboard. Europe won eight consecutive matches, built a four-point lead going into Sunday's singles session and never gave the Americans much hope on its way to another victory on home soil.

And then Reed managed to make them look even worse.

In a telephone interview with The New York Times later Sunday, Reed blamed Jordan Spieth for them not playing together and U.S. captain Jim Furyk for twice leaving Reed on the bench.

"The issue's obviously with Jordan not wanting to play with me," Reed told the Times. "I don't have any issue with Jordan. When it comes right down to it, I don't care if I like the person I'm paired with or if the person likes me as long as it works and it sets up the team for success. He and I know how to make each other better. We know how to get the job done."

Reed doesn't care about relationships forged during the week.

He cares only about winning.

That's the European way. That's what America needs.

Sam Torrance, who won the clinching match in 1985 when Europe won for the first time since 1957, said in one of the inspirational videos for Team Europe leading up to the matches: "It's not about taking part. It's about winning. Nothing else."

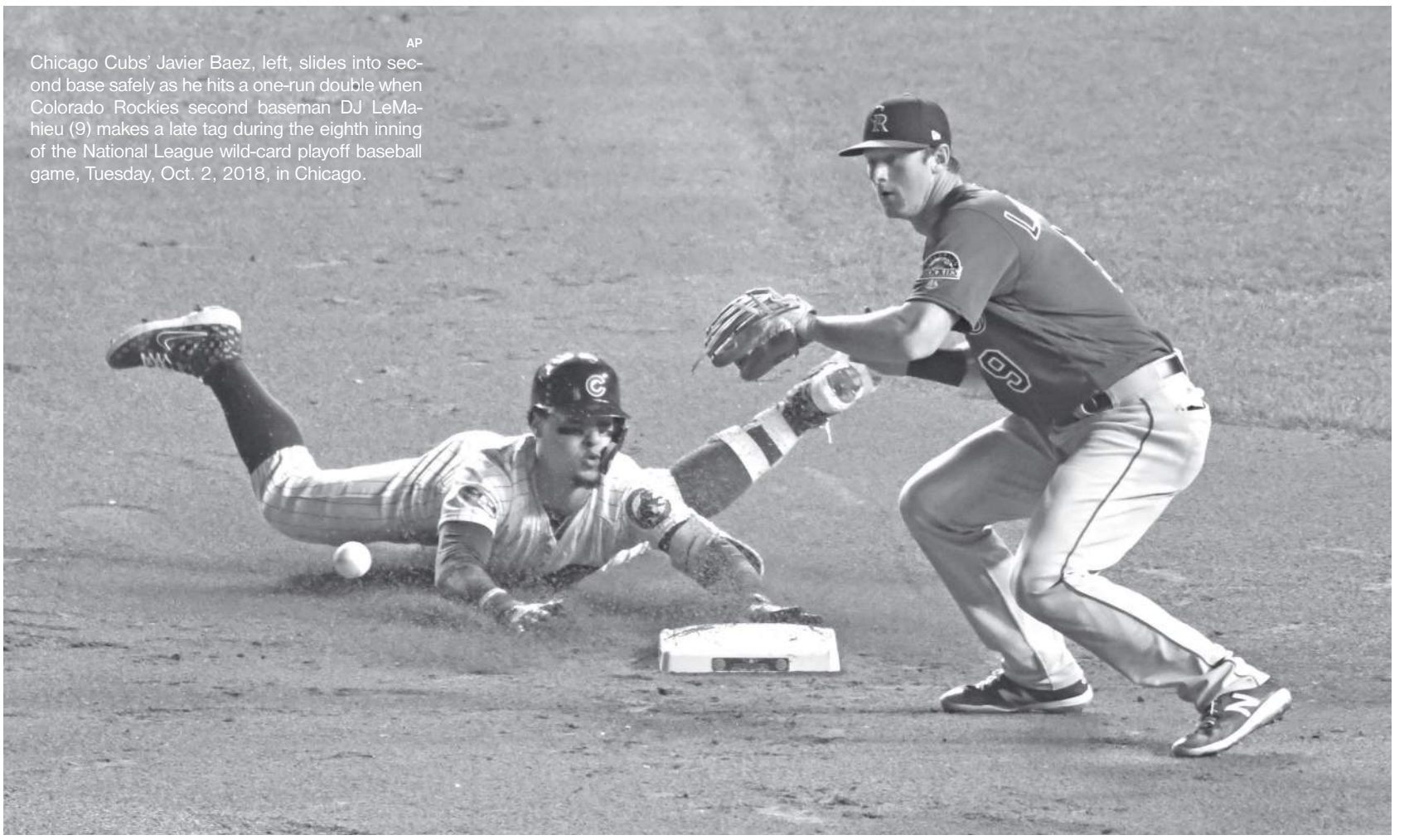
They win as one. They don't lose very often.

European captain Thomas Bjorn said poignantly after Europe built a 10-6 advantage going into singles: "This is 12 players, and we do this together. We've been playing with eight in every session, but it's about 12, and we felt like we've been a whole team on the golf course every session.

But the passion of Reed came off as poison with his remarks to the Times.

He made it clear that he is one of 12 only if he gets his way.

Rockies top Cubs in epic wild-card game



AP

Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez, left, slides into second base safely as he hits a one-run double when Colorado Rockies second baseman DJ LeMahieu (9) makes a late tag during the eighth inning of the National League wild-card playoff baseball game, Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP)—Tony Wolters waited and waited as the NL wild-card game went deep into Tuesday night. He stretched a couple of times and tried to figure out when he might get a chance to play.

When that opportunity arrived, he was ready.

Wolters hit a tiebreaking single with two outs in the 13th inning and the Colorado Rockies outlasted the Chicago Cubs 2-1 at Wrigley Field in the longest win-or-go-home postseason game in major league history.

"Probably the biggest hit I've ever had, that's for sure," he said.

The 26-year-old Wolters, claimed off waivers from Cleveland in 2016, entered as part of a double switch in the bottom of the 12th. The reserve catcher came up with runners at the corners and drove in Trevor Story with a two-strike hit back up the middle off losing pitcher Kyle Hendricks, quieting the crowd of 40,151 on a crisp fall night.

After playing its third big game over three days in three different cities, Colorado now heads to Milwaukee to open a best-of-five Division Series against the NL Central champion Brewers on Thursday.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves, that's for sure," Story said, "but we're going to enjoy this one tonight and we're definitely not done."

Scott Oberg, the sixth Colorado pitcher, fanned Kris Bryant for the final out of the 12th and then struck out the side in the 13th to end the longest postseason game at 104-year-old Wrigley. Terrance Gore tried to sell that he was hit by a pitch, but was sent back to the plate after a replay review confirmed the initial call.

After Albert Almora Jr. struck out swinging for the final out, Wolters ran out and grabbed Oberg. They were soon joined by the rest of the excited Rockies in a rollicking purple mob near the mound.

"You're always wondering, 'How's this going to end?' But our guys fought all night and to be able to get that last out there was great," Oberg said.

Wolters got his first hit since Sept. 10 in his playoff debut, and it was just the second postseason game for Oberg. Previously, the longest winner-take-all games in the postseason were 12-inning affairs in the 2014 AL wild-card round and Game 7 of the 1924 World Series.

This one had pretty much everything, too. Hendricks was the third starting pitcher used by the Cubs, after Jon Lester worked six solid innings and Cole Hamels was pressed into action after the teams were tied at 1 through nine. Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado exchanged a memorable hug with Javier Baez after he tagged the excitable Cubs star in the 11th.

Colorado moved on to the Division Series for the first time since 2009. The Rockies lost to Arizona in the NL wild-card game a year ago.

"Such a crazy game," Story said.

The Cubs made it to the NLCS in each of the previous three seasons, winning the 2016 World Series to break a 108-year drought, but they were plagued by an inconsistent offense all season long. Chicago finished with six hits and left 10 runners on base after managing only three hits in Monday's 3-1 home loss to the Brewers in the NL Central tiebreaker.

"We played that game a lot," manager Joe Maddon said. "Believe me, it was on my mind for a large part of it."

This time, it was Kyle Freeland cruising through Maddon's lineup.

Starting on three days' rest for the first time in the pros, Freeland struck out six in 6 2/3 scoreless innings. The Denver native looked quite comfortable in his first career playoff appearance, helping his hometown team bounce back from Monday's NL West tiebreaker loss to the Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Wild-card do-over: Severino for Yankees again

NEW YORK (AP)—Luis Severino gets a wild-card do-over.

After getting just one out for the New York Yankees against Minnesota last year, Severino starts this year's winner-take-all matchup against the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday night.

"I just want to win," Severino said Tuesday. "If I can go four good innings and then the bullpen comes, that would be great."

Severino was chosen over J.A. Happ and Masahiro Tanaka despite a second-half slump. Rookie manager Aaron Boone said he made the decision after a staff meeting Saturday, slept on it and finalized it the next day .

"I think he's equipped in so many ways to handle this, and perhaps most importantly, he's equipped with amazing stuff and the ability to dominate big league hitters because he's such a talented pitcher," Boone said.

Severino left last year's wild-card game trailing 3-0 after allowing four hits and a walk. Chad Green, David Robertson, Tommy Kahnle and Aroldis Chapman combined for five-hit relief as New York rallied for an 8-4 victory.

"I was too excited," Severino said. "It was a good experience. Now I'll take that tomorrow and try to treat that game like a regular game."

A 24-year-old right-hander, Severino was 19-8 with a 3.39 ERA and 220 strikeouts. He was 14-2 with a 2.31 ERA at the All-Star break but lost six of his next nine decisions before beating Boston and Tampa Bay in his last two outings.

He lost 8-2 at Oakland on Sept. 5, allowing six runs — five earned — and six hits in 2 2/3 innings. He threw two wild pitches and Gary Sanchez had two of his major league-high 18 passed balls .

"I think it was a miscommunication between us," Severino said. "I think we didn't set the right signs."

The wild-card winner advances to a Division Series against Boston starting Friday. Boone is including Happ, Tanaka and Lance Lynn as part of a nine-man bullpen Wednesday.

A's plan on 'bullpenning'

It took less than a season for a strategy borne of scarcity to become one used for strength.

At a media session Tuesday reserved for the Oakland Athletics' starting pitcher in Wednesday's AL Wild Card game at Yankee Stadium, two players appeared at the podium. Right-handers Liam Hendriks and Blake Treinen represent the front and back ends of the bullpen mix A's manager Bob Melvin intends to ride into the ALDS: Hendriks is the opener, Treinen the closer.

Melvin did not divulge his pitching plans beyond Hendriks and said his club's roster for the Wild Card game has not even been settled yet. He noted the distinction between a "bullpen game"—using a series of relievers in 1- and 2-inning stints—and using Hendriks as an opener before turning to a traditional starter for multiple innings, in the role the pioneering Tampa Bay Rays call "the bulk guy." He did not commit to either strategy for Wednesday's game. His best starter this season, Sean Manaea, endured season-ending shoulder surgery in September.

"The reason that we started looking at this is because we've had so many injuries in our rotation, and we're just trying to do the best possible thing that we think for a particular day," Melvin said. "We're just trying to do what's best for us.... We're trying to figure out who goes where to benefit the strengths of our team."

Twins fire Molitor, eye new manager to 'grow a young team'

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Two years ago, the Minnesota Twins made Derek Falvey their chief baseball officer with the precondition that Paul Molitor remain as manager.

Molitor presided over a playoff team and won the American League Manager of the Year award in 2017, but the Twins slipped backward this season. Last week, Falvey and general manager Thad Levine decided the time was right to hire their own manager.

Citing pursuit of more productive development by their younger players, Falvey and Levine fired Molitor on Tuesday while offering him an opportunity to remain with the organization in an undefined position in baseball operations.

"This wasn't about our record this year. This is about what we think is best as we continue to grow a young team in the direction toward being a championship contender," Falvey said.

Falvey and other club executives expressed confidence that Molitor would stay with the Twins beyond the 20 years he has already worked for them in various roles, including the final three seasons of his Hall of Fame playing career.

"I fully respect that decision," Molitor said in a statement distributed by the team. "I will forever be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to serve in the role as manager for these past four years. I'm going to consider their genuine offer to serve in a different capacity to positively impact the Twins from a different role."

The Twins went 305-343 under the 62-year-old Molitor, with one appearance in the playoffs in 2017. They were 78-84 this year, long out of postseason contention after a series of early setbacks to several key players.

Falvey and Levine, in a news conference at Target Field to announce the change, didn't articulate specific reasons for firing Molitor or desired qualities they're seeking with his replacement. The 20-minute session with reporters was largely filled with praise of Molitor's acumen and attitude.

Two-time defending champ Warriors switch up practice routine

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Even the two-time defending NBA champions are seeking ways to reinvent themselves when it comes to preparation and practice routine.

The Golden State Warriors are putting a greater emphasis on player development this training camp with a younger roster.

An hour ahead of formal team workouts, Golden State's young core shows up for individual skill work, to learn defensive concepts or to go over offensive schemes and terminology with assistant coach Chris DeMarco.

"We have a veteran team, so being able to get these young guys in and still be able to do drill work that maybe the veterans don't need, that's always going to be beneficial moving forward because it's a long season," DeMarco said after practice Tuesday. "So sometimes you get caught up and you're not able to practice, there's back-to-backs where the young guys aren't out there developing those skills that we need them to develop. So coming in early, making sure they're getting that individual work, making sure they're getting that team defense concept, offensively what we're trying to do, the actions and all that, that's important."

Veterans such as Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Draymond Green, meanwhile, may use that time to work on their bodies in the training room or weightlifting before Steve Kerr's entire squad comes together for an efficient, shorter workout some days if that's all the coaches deem the Warriors need.

Or, those older players might just grab some extra rest.

That slight adjustment to the practice approach has made for what Kerr considers the best camp of his tenure as he enters his fifth season running the show. Golden State also didn't have to travel like the trip the Warriors made to China last year that took a physical toll.

AP

Golden State Warriors' Kendrick Nunn, right, shoots against Minnesota Timberwolves' Josh Okogie (20) during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018, in Oakland, Calif.

"The continuity that we have with the group combined with a really good crop of young guys, both the guys we know will be on our roster and the guys trying out, and some of whom will end up in Santa Cruz, working really hard," he said. "I think we've figured some things out as a coaching staff how to streamline practice, make it more efficient, cleaner."

DeMarco, recently promoted to assistant coach and director of player development, is leading the young Warriors after the departures of three key veterans in JaVale McGee, David West and Zaza Pachulia.

There's a youth movement now, and Golden State is determined to sustain its recent success—three titles in four years—even with the challenges of keeping an All-Star-studded roster together in free agency next summer.

By having the younger players do their work earlier, Kerr can run more focused practices with fewer breaks by going straight from one drill to the next.

Young shows why rebuilding Hawks could be fun to watch

ATLANTA (AP)—Trae Young just might make the Atlanta Hawks fun to watch this season.

The rookie point guard flashed some dazzling ball-handling skills in his preseason debut, keeping his teammates and fans involved in the action while he is on the floor.

Atlanta is not expected to win many games this season, but Young will likely win over his teammates and more than a few fans.

"His greatest skill is he can facilitate and he can find guys," first-year coach Lloyd Pierce said. "When you have a player with the ability to do that, to find guys in creative ways, he's fun to play with."

In his preseason debut Monday night, Young provided a glimpse of what Hawks fans can expect this year.

Some good:

On one play he bounced a pass off the backboard and later wrapped on around a defender on the baseline to assist on uncontested dunks.

Some not so good: It was far from a perfect night as Young missed 10 of his first 11 attempts from the field.

But he seemed to get a pass on his shooting—for now.

The seamless way he involved power forward John Collins, shooting guard Kent Bazemore and small forward Taurean Prince caused a loud stir from the small crowd at Georgia Tech.

At least for one preseason game, he validated why the Hawks traded down two spots on draft night to acquire the freshman out of Oklahoma with the No. 5 overall pick.

The 20-year-old had six assists before he committed a turnover, the best moment coming in the second quarter when he ran a pick-and-roll with Collins at the top of the key. Young drove around Julius Randle and drew Davis his way before bouncing an alley-oop pass off the backboard that Collins grabbed for a hard dunk.

"We've been doing that in practice and in drills and stuff," Young said. "We were waiting for the moment when we could do it in a game. Lucky it happened in the first preseason game, which was pretty cool.

KANOA

From Page 28

21st minute, while Mary Joy did the same in the 56th.

With MP United bowing to TanHoldings, the former missed a follow-up on its season debut win over Southern United during the division's opening week.

Southern United 6, Matansa 1

Southern United recovered from its loss over MP United after dominating the winless Matansa (0-2).

Keisha Deleon Guerrero powered Southern United to the easy victory after making four straight goals in the second half. She got her first in the 40th minute and the last three in the 44th, 48th, and 67th. Marinel Joy Falalimpa knocked in the two other goals for Southern United, as she scored in the sixth and 16th minute, while Jannah Casarino averted a shutout loss for Matansa after lighting up the board in the 45th.

CO-ED U13A DIVISION
Kanoa-1 4, MP United 3

Kanoa-1 grabbed the lead from MP United after pulling off a close win in their duel last weekend at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Daniel Mark Pablo delivered the go-ahead goal for Kanoa-1 in the 64th minute or three minutes after Garett Weaver equalized for MP United. Kanoa-1 took the top spot with its 2-0 record, while MP United fell to second place with its 2-1 slate.

Markus Toves, Jim Kurt Maniago, and Dylan Mister knocked in the three other goals for Kanoa, while Dev Bachani and Andrew Chung scored one each for MP United. Toves drew first blood for Kanoa-1 with his conversion right in the fourth minute of the close match, while Bachani tied the game four minutes later. Chung then handed MPU the lead in the 22nd minute, but Kanoa-1 forced another deadlock, thanks to Maniago's shot in the 26th minute. Mister's goal in the 47th minute gave the lead back to Kanoa-1, 3-2, before Weaver knotted the count anew in the 61st minute. However, Pablo broke the tie quickly and Kanoa-1 went on to keep the shaky lead at the buzzer.

Matansa 6, Kanoa-2 1

In the other match in the division, Matansa coasted past Kanoa-2 for its first win this season.

Carl Walter Salas, Chanyang Woo, ad Alex Megino registered two goals apiece for Matansa, which had a draw and loss in its first two games before routing Kanoa-2 to make it to the win column.

Kanoa-2 absorbed its second loss in as many games, as only Chad Escaner scored for the squad.

SAIPAN

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Saipan high school teams will advance to the playoff round and maybe joined by Tinian and Rota, which would automatically take the No. 5 and 6 seeds, respectively.

Mt. Carmel School has a chance to finish in the Top 4 with three playing days left in the regular season (including this afternoon's matches) as it improved to a 6-3 record following a pair of victories last Tuesday.

The Lady Knights first challenged Saipan International School (5-4) and needed three sets to beat the Lady Geckos. MCS topped the first set, 25-20, but missed the automatic victory, as SIS registered a 25-18 triumph in the second. In the third set, SIS and Mt. Carmel went back and forth before the latter escaped with a 15-23 victory.

The Lady Knights then took only a few minutes of rest before facing Kagman and rode on the momentum of their earlier victory for an emphatic 25-9 win in the first set. While the opening set was a one-sided affair, the second was a totally different story, as neither team seemed willing to give in before Mt. Carmel blinked, allowing Kagman to pull off a 28-26 triumph. The close battle between MCS and Kagman continued in the deciding third set with the Lady Knights prevailing, 15-13, to remain in the top half of the team standings. Kagman dropped to a 3-7 record.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Marianas High School player dinks the ball during their game against Saipan Southern High School in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last week at the MHS Gymnasium.

In other results last Tuesday, Kagman and MHS defeated Agape Christian School.

The Lady Dolphins were the first ones to meet Agape and eased their way to a straight set victory, 25-6, 25-7, 15-6. Kagman, on the other hand, won two out of the three sets of its match versus Agape. The Lady Ayuyus outclassed the Torchbearers in the first set, 25-20, before the latter surprised the former with a 25-21 triumph in the second. Kagman then avoided Agape's upset axe after winning the decider, 15-9.

Meanwhile, four matches are scheduled today with GCA returning to the court and playing two games after taking a break last Tuesday. GCA will first square off against MHS at 4:30pm on the north court before battling Kagman at 5:30pm on the same court. The two other pairings this afternoon will have Saipan Southern colliding against Mt. Carmel and SIS challenging MHS.

TSUNAMI

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practiced every day during the summer break," Kimura said.

Meanwhile, with the uncertainties surrounding the Marpi pool, Tsunami Saipan is looking for alternative venues for their training sessions and aiming at competing in more off-island events.

"The first one is the meet in Guam in November. We plan to bring many swimmers there. We also have two meets in Japan—one is a high level for our top group and the other is BB level for our young swimmers," Kimura said.

"We will use some pools and swim in the ocean sometimes. We thanked Dolphin Club Saipan's Emma and Peter Perez for supporting our kids and letting us use their facility for free," the Tsunami Saipan official said.

Kimura also acknowledged all the people who signed the petition to keep the Kan Pacific pool open and hopes the facility will reopen soon.

Saipan Electronic Darts Association Awards Banquet

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Players of 6JMS Bulldogs, who won the C Division regular season, are joined by the awards presenters for a group photo during the banquet for the 2018 Saipan Electronic Darts Association League last Sunday at Charley's Cabaret in Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Members of Fanihi B Division winners 6JMS Mafia III pose with their championship trophies.

Jonny's Team Kyodai players receive their trophies after ruling the Flame Tree B Division.

6JMS Mafia members gather for a photo after taking the title in the Masters Division.

Tom Basa, second left, of tournament sponsor MARPAC receives a plaque of appreciation presented by Pacific Amusement's Neil Gebhard, third left.

6JMS Mafia II players proudly show the championship trophies they earned after topping the Tuesday B Division.

6JMS Mafia II players make it to the center stage again after winning the Bud Light Cup in the Tuesday B Division.

Rams remain unanimous top team in poll

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Rockies top Cubs in epic wild-card game

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Kanoa wins season debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Spring season champion Kanoa Football Club got its offense going in the second half en route to a 5-0 victory over Paire FC in the girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Kanoa drew goals from five different players to win their first match of the fall season. Paulyn Joyce, Sharmaine Francisco, Kiara Nichole Manganti, and Sue Ann Huevos hit all their goals in the second half, scoring in the 45th, 53rd, 60th, and 63rd minute, respectively. Khristelle Itaas handed Kanoa its lone goal in the first half when she found the back of the net in the ninth minute.

Paire, which played with a depleted roster, failed to counter to drop its second straight game.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club's Paulynn Joyce, center, and Paire FC's Summer Manahane, right, nudge each other as they go after the ball during the second half of their girls U16 division game in the 2018 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings 2, MP United 0

TanHoldings played its second game and prevailed anew after blanking MP United to take the early lead in the division.

Siblings Emalyn and Mary Joy Aniana delivered the goals for TanHoldigs, which won its opener against Paire last Sept. 15. Emalyn hit the board in the

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Tsunami Saipan holds time trial, eyes off-island meets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan held a time trial to make the most out of its last two days at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said the time trial is important as they don't know where a local meet will take place this season after the closure of the Olympic-sized pool last Sept. 30.

"Nobody knows how long there won't be a meet here. The race feeling is very important for competitive swimmers," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

More than 50 Tsunami Saipan members joined the time trial held last Friday and Saturday and Kimura made special mention of five swimmers after their notable performances in the different races.

In the 50m freestyle, Alex Kim and Kevin Guerrero got Kimura's attention, as the two swimmers broke the 30-second barrier in their first attempt. Kim timed in at 29.17 seconds, while Guerrero submitted 29.90.

GUERRERO

KIM

"This means there are already eight Tsunami Saipan swimmers who broke the 30-second barrier," said Kimura. The six others are Juhn Tenorio (27.55 seconds) Nelson Batallones (28.94), Isaiah Aleksenko (28.91), Joseph Zhang (29.13), Hans Xu (29.81), and Ashley Dangol (29.89).

In the 50m butterfly, the Tsunami Saipan coach was pleased with the performance of Batallones and Aika Watanabe, who are the captain and vice captains of the group and members of the sensyu (top) class, and Shuman Barman. Batallones, Watanabe and Barman clocked in at 29.58 seconds, 31.90, and 37.18, respectively, during the time trial.

"Overall, our swimming level is higher than last season. This is the result of everyone's hard work during the summer. Tsunami Saipan swimmers

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Saipan Southern sweeps Kagman

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School notched its seventh win in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League after shutting down Kagman High School last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Rays eked out a 25-22 victory over the Lady Ayuyus in the first set and then prevailed in another closely fought duel in the second, 25-20, to take the outright win. Despite its early triumph, Saipan Southern was still at it and this time cruised to a 15-5 win to complete the sweep. With their 7-2 record (unofficial), the Lady Rays are in second place in the team standings in the seven-squad field behind Grace Christian Academy (6-1).

The final rankings in the regular season will determine the seeding in next weekend's double-elimination tournament. All seven

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Saipan Southern High School player bumps the ball during the second set of their game against Saipan International School in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.